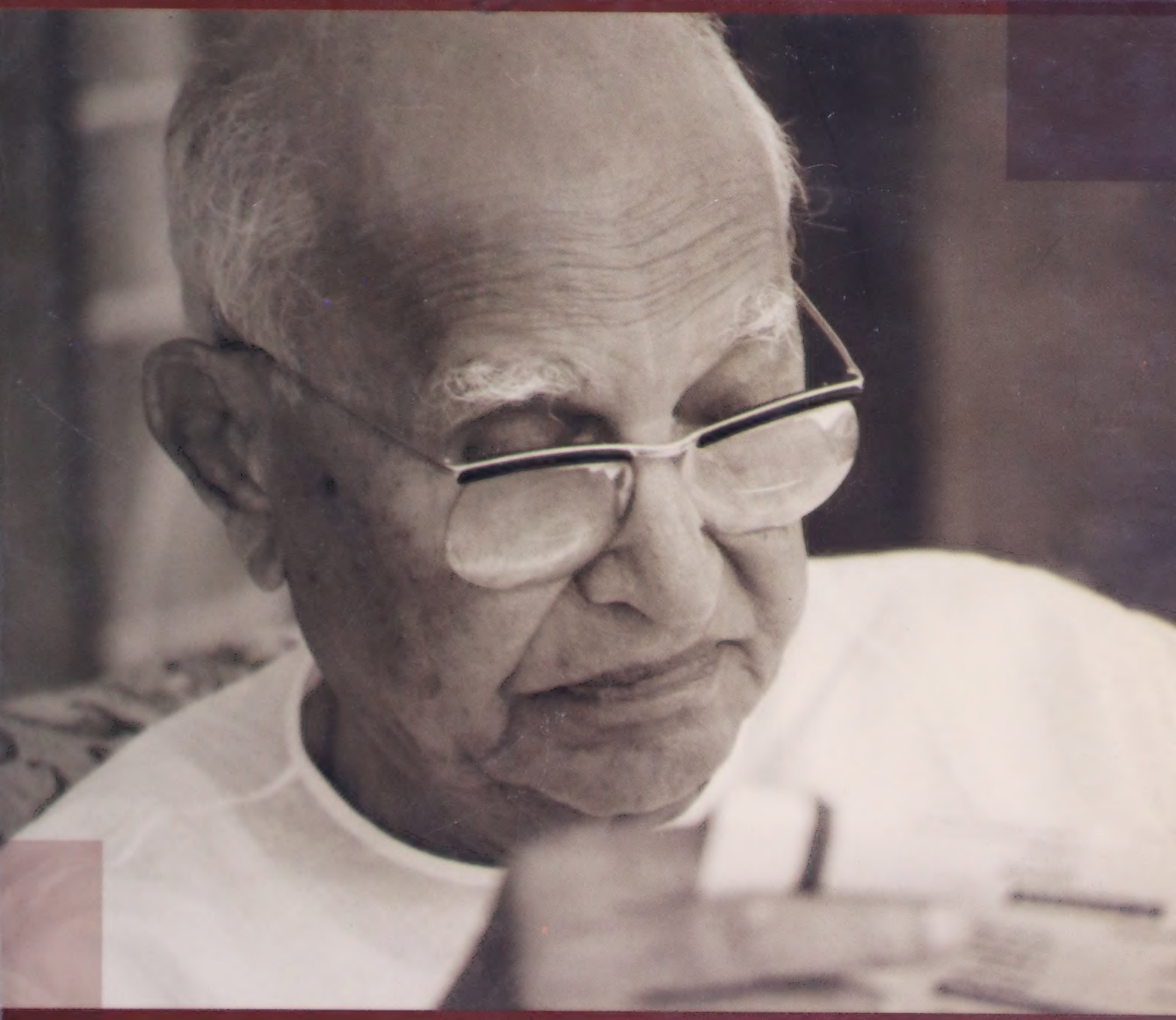
IN COMMEMORATION OF CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF
S. NIJALINGAPPA

S.N. Diary



S. Nijalingappa
Dec. 1968

In Commemoration of Centenary Celebrations of S. Nijalingappa

S. N. DIARY

(SELECTED PORTIONS)

Chief Editor

Dr. D. Javare Gowda

Editor

K. R. Kamalesh

S. Nijalingappa National Foundation

BANGALORE

S.N. DIARY - Selected Portions of S. Nijalingappa's Diary
Chief Editor : Dr. D. Javare Gowda and
Editor : K.R. Kamalesh and
Published by S. Nijalingappa National Foundation
Chinnaswamy Cricket Stadium
M.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 001

Pages : xii + 244

First Edition : April 2003

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Price : **Rs. 150/-**

Cover Designer : Sri Sripad

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LAKSHMI MUDRANALAYA
Chamarajpet, Bangalore - 18
Ph. : 6613123, 6618752

FOREWORD

My association with S. Nijalingappaji goes back to the fifties when he was the Karnataka Chief Minister and I was then Home Minister Govindaballabh Pant's Press Secretary. The distance between the two offices is apparent. But Nijalingappaji's knack of treating all equally was his strong point. He would invite even the smallest to his dining a regular feature when he came to Delhi and occupied the position of Congress President. I often ate breakfast at his house.

In the late sixties I was writing the book **India-The Critical Years.** Those were the days when the hiatus between the then Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi and top Congress leaders was developing and putting pressure on the party. She was of the opinion that some old leaders were trying to dictate her. At the back of her mind was the thought that they wanted to remove her. It was Nijalingappaji who assured her that there was no such "conspiracy" the word she would use to complain to him as the congress President. Ultimately, the lack of trust led to the split in the party in 1969.

I wanted all the details for my book. At one of the breakfast meetings, Nijalingappaji told me that he had recorded every happening within the Congress in his diary. I was taken aback because I could never imagine that in the midst of all pulls and pressures he had found time to write what had taken place. But how faithful to the facts. For example, he wrote on July 15, 1969, "In view of the temper of the PM she may do any odd thing. She

is keenly feeling that she being the Prime Minister of India her opinion regarding the President's selection ought to have been accepted. She seems to be taking too much for granted and is so overbearing and haughty. She has been taught a lesson always grooming her for the Prime Ministership so obviously and patently, she will do something nasty in a huff. She is so very much angry and upset about Chavan and then Moraji as she expected being her Cabinet colleagues they should go with her whatever she desires. Wrong approach. Let us see what she may do. It is a pity that accepting (Kamraj) Nadar's strong desire we made her PM." He was honest and objective in recording events, although he was unhappy over her behaviour.

Probably his confidence in me or his desire to let the truth be known, he gave me the diary when I asked him if I could have it. The only question he posed was: What would you do with it? My replay was: I would make full use of it. The matter ended there. Even when we met he did not inquire about the diary.

I was then the Resident Editor of the **Statesman**. One day I got a call from him for a breakfast meeting. I met him the next morning. By then the Congress had split and Mrs. Indira Gandhi had constituted a new Congress party. She had nationalized the banks and ousted Morarji Desai from her Cabinet to paint leaders in the original congress as conservatives, in the way of progress.

In a country where money was hard to get, nationalization of banks was regarded by the average man as relaxation of restrictions. Every person, from a business executive to a cabman, saw in it an opportunity to draw money from banks, invest in his or her business and develop it. This was the dawn they had been awaiting, what the Cassandras said did not matter.

Nijalingappaji was a sad man when I met him to deliver the diary. He could not reconcile to the methods used to denigrate him and the Congress party. What could he do? She was still in the Government with the support of Communist MPs.

Probably he had read the book in which I had quoted his diary. All that he asked me was what I had done with the diary.

I told him I had made good use of it. We never discussed the subject subsequently.

In the last years of his life, he tried his best to revive old values. He constituted a group to work for it and included me in that. The pain he had developed on the falling standards in the country was etched on his face. He would often warn that communalism would be such a strong force one day that all must unite to fight against it. I recall how true he was in saying so.

The words he wrote on August 10, 1969, were so telling: "Pride goeth before a fall. During the last one week there were demonstrations of taxi drivers, richshawalas, students, etc., going to her house and she addressing them as if she is the only one who works for the poor and complaining against a few individuals. Even the name of the Congress is not mentioned."

With the split in the Congress, the field was open for extreme right, then the Jan Sangh. Subsequent events have proved this. If the Congress had not been split, if the warning of Nijalingappaji had been heard, the country would have been traversing a different road.

The diary is so lucid that it can be finished at one sitting. It reminds us of good old days despite the bitterness of party politics.

Date : 15.1.2003 **Kuldip Nayyar**
New Delhi

Govt. of Karnataka

R. V. Deshpande
Minister for Large & Medium Industries
Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore

13.01.2003

MESSAGE

I am very glad that the Centenary of national leader S. Nijalingappa is being celebrated throughtout the State. He is a pioneer architect among those who struggled by actively involving themselves for the unification of the present Karnataka. During his regime many important projects and schemes like power, industrial and irrigation were given life and taken up for execution, which are fruitful today. His public life was transparent. He was an honest, highly disciplied and lived upto his words. His personal Diary for the period 15th January 1953 to 28th January 2002 helps us to know about his yeoman service in various fields for the country and many historical events of national importance, and gives us a picture of many of our prominent and dynamic leaders like Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, Babu Rajendra Prasad, Jawarharlal Nehru, Rajaji, Govind Vallabh Pant and others. His Diary would be an invaluable treasury for researchers, political analysts, sociologists, economists and political leaders.

I heartily congratulate the S. Nijalingappa Foundation for publishing a collection of his personal Diary and all those who worked upon this project.

On this auspicious occasion, I wish the editorial collection of the Personal Diary of S. Nijalingappa to come out more attractively and meaningfully.

R. V. Deshpande

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Sri S. Nijalingappa National Foundation came into existance on 17.1.94, with its office at Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bangalore. Former Education Minister of Karnataka, former M.P., and a close associate of Sri S. Nijalingappa, Sri A. R. Badarinarayan became its President. Former M.P. and General Secretary of Bapuji Educational Institutions at Davanagere, Sri Shyamanur Shivashankarappa, and myself became its Vice Presidents. While Sri L.S. Chandrashekar became its Secretary, former Chief Secretary to Govt of Karnataka, Sri B.S. Muddappa became the Treasurer. Industrialist Sri R. N. Shetty, Y.N. Gangadhara Shetty, M.P. and industiralist Sri Vijay Sankeshwar and Legislator-Chandrakanth Bellad became Memebrs. K.P.C.C. President - Sri Allam Veerabhadrapppa, Member of the Rajya Sabha Sri M.V. Rajashekharan, Governor of Kerala Sri Sikandar Bakth, former Chief Minister of Maharastra Sri A. R. Antule, former Chief Minister of Haryana Sri Bansilal, former Minister and Legislator A.B. Patil, former Education Minister of Karnataka Sri H. Govinde gowda, Sri S. N. Kiran Shankar (Son of Sri S. Nijalingappa), Sri Shivalingaiah, Sri Basavaraj, S.B. Malli, Smt. Prathibha Devi Muddappa and Smt (Dr.) Mangala V. Betkarur, and Sri Sathish Chandra Hegde are the co-opted members of the foundation.

The aim and ambition of the Foundation is to give an insight in to the life and achievements of Sri S. Nijalingappa as well as promoting a political awareness among the common people.

I being a senior founder member offered a fixed deposit of Rs 50,000/- with which the Foundation has been able to install a scholarship for PUC and graduation course students. Likewise symposiums and lectures, have also been organised on subjects like 'Mahathma Gandhiji' by D.M., Chandrashekhar, former Chief Justice, 'Sardar Vallabhai Patel' by Sr. Nittur Srinivasa Rao and 'Indian values of life' by Sri Rama Jois.

The diaries written by Sri S. Nijalingappa have been preserved at the State Archives Department. It may be a source of reference for those who are interested in the political incidents of our country. The Kannada & Culture Department has brought out three books namely, 'Rastra Bhushana', 'S. N. Photo Album' and 'S. Nijalingappa : A Visionry with a Vision', in commemoration of his birth centenary.

Realising the improtance of bringing out this book, Sri R.V. Deshpande, Minister for Medium and Large Scale Industries, Govt. of Karnataka, helped us in our attempt. Rajya Sabha Member Sri M.V. Rajashekaran also helped us at every stage. K.P.C.C. Member Sri A.S. Jayasimha's has also supported us a lot.

Sri Kuldip Nayyar has blessed us with his invaluable introduction. Former Vice-Chancellor of Mysore University and a reknowned writer in Kannada, Dr. D. Javare Gowda has encouraged us with his epilogue. Sri K.R. Kamalesh has extended all his support in bringing out this book. Sri B. S. Sathya Narayana, former Senior Editor of Karnataka Gazetteer, has read the proof for us. Owner of Laxmi Mudranalaya, Chamarajpet, Bangalore, Sri Ashok Kumar and his staff, have done a commendable job in bringing out this book. Sri Sripad has done the cover page for the book. The S.N. Foundation thank them all.

We thank all those once again, who indirectly or directly, have extended their support in bringing out this book.

Bangalore
30.01.2003

Y. Ramachandra

S. N. DIARY

January 15, 1953

Linguistic Provinces' question was discussed at length. My feeling is the leaders are incapable of judging the situation. Considerable servility has set in. Pandit Nehru was most unconvincing when he says Hyderabad should not be distintegrated. Possibly none except Maulana agreed with him. It is unfortunate that after assuming the office of the Prime Minister he is losing resiliency of mind and action. The spirit of adventure and moving forwards is not there. I believe he is not even surrounded by honest men who can speak out their mind. Sycophancy and flattery are strong around him. He is extremely flatterable. To add, it is becoming increasingly clear he is a bad judge of men.

At last night's sittings of the Steering Committee the Nehru draft was very reactionary. It was watered down at my and Shankar Rao Dev's insistence. I refused to move or second the resolution. Strangely enough Sri Gadgil accepted.

January 16, 1953

On the Linguistic Provinces' question yesterday in the Steering Committee, Sri Dasappa played a role to suit Sri Nehru. From what I know of the man all these years,

nothing better can be expected. Sri Mallya played nasty role. He had the cheek to say that South Canara District was against Karnataka. Coorg and Mysore and only two districts of Bombay wanted it.

This man is one of the worst specimens of humanity. It is a wonder he is selected by Pandit Nehru as General Secretary of the Congress. A man possessing no principles nor respecting and possessing morals of any kind, he is allowed to play a role in the affairs of the country. Unfortunate.

June 11, 1953

Reached Mysore in the morning. After bath and rest and food in Sri Sowkar Channiah's house left at 2.30 p.m. for Bandipur Sanctuary with Sri. H.K. Veeranna Gowda and Sri T. Mariyappa in Sri H.K.'s car, reached Bandipur at 4 p.m. Sri Medappa, Siddaiah and Channiah were there.

Had tea with the Mysore Maharaja. Had a drive through the forest and saw a very large herd of sambhars. Nice fight between two large-horned males. Nice sight. Saw a couple of bisons and an elephant. Enjoyed the drive immensely. The scenery with pretty thick growth of forest in the near hills and the high sunlit Nilgiri ranges beyond, is magnificent. The Maharaja, I find, is very well informed and can give lot of useful information on various subjects. Sri Hanumanthaiah, the Chief Minister, seems to have behaved very indecently with scant courtesy towards the Rajpramukh who is a fine man and a gentleman.

Note : The Maharaja was appointed Rajpramukh at my request.

Returned to our camp at 8.30 p.m. and had a hearty meal and very good rest. Sri Medappa and I shared a room in the forest bungalow.

August 5,1953

I saw Nehru and explained to him several matters relating to Karnataka and Mysore, Coorg and also Chitradurga District's famine, etc.

August 9, 1953

Got news that Sheik Abdullah, PM of Kashmir had been dismissed and Bakshi Ghulam Mohamad has been asked to be PM of Kashmir. Later learnt of the arrest of Sheik Abdullah and another colleague of his in the ministry. This is a right step taken by the head of Kashmir State. Sheik Abdullah was biting more than he could chew. His utterances lately were getting anti-India. Independence for Kashmir became his cry, since he had been under American influence.

August 29,1953, K.P.C.C.Council Meeting, Hubli, 3. p. m.

Met and discussed the main problem of reviewing the April resolution. Consensus of opinion in the Council was in favour of revising it in view of Nehru's assurances.

Further clarification was expected of him in answer to my letter of 17th instant. He has sent a telegram that he is sending his reply. I was told and also previously that some members mostly V.V. Patil and his son-in-law Magadi are thinking of bringing a no-confidence resolution against me. The whole thing is preposterous. I do not think they have the guts even to mention it.

October 30, 1953 K.P.C.C. Meeting,Hubli, 3.p.m.

P.C.C. Council met in the morning and in view of the further clarification in Nehru's letter just received this morning, it was unanimously resolved to place a resolution that no action was called for that was contemplated by April resolution.

December 24, 1953

Reached Chitradurga and found mother in poor condition. She is unable to move about. I do not think there is any danger to life.

December 27, 1953.

Last day of Parliament. In the evening read letter from Raja that mother's condition is serious. Very much perturbed. Could not get sleep. The whole of her past and mine came to mind. What a life she has led! Went to Airport office. No seat is available either to Bangalore tomorrow morning or to Madras tonight.

Booked passage for 28th morning.

February 4, 1954 *Hubli*

Congress workers of Karnataka convention at 4 p.m. Sri. K. Hanumanthaiah, Chief Minister of Mysore, inaugurates. A number of engagements at Hubli for Sri K. H. Second sitting of the convention at 9 p.m. Paid to Raja who is here during the last 5 or 6 days. Sri K. Hanumanthaiah had many engagements. He made speeches. People in their desire for Karnataka gave a rousing reception.

The convention closed at 2 a.m. early morning.

March 3, 1954 *Delhi*

Saw President at 6.45 p.m. and explained to him situation in Mysore and Karnataka. Discussed community projects, etc.

March 4, 1954 *Delhi*

Saw Dr. Pattabhi in Rashtrapathi Bhavan and discussed Mysore, Karnataka, etc.

March 17, 1954

Sri K. Hanumanthaiah, Chief Minister, came and had a long talk with me and appealed that he would abide by my decision and that of Sri. K.C.Reddy or of mine alone.

April 20, 1954

Got myself thoroughly checked up and radiogrammed. Heart is judged to be alright. Blood preasure is very low. There is swelling of the legs.

In the afternoon got very ill and restless due to stomach trouble, etc. This uneasiness continued till midnight. Dr.Jayaram came and examined me. There is a great effort to oust Sri Hanumanthaiah. My feeling is he does not deserve to continue. Neither should the old group come in. New people, honest men should come in.

June 2, 1954 *Bangalore*

Sri V.V. Patil, Magadi and Nesvi are in Bangalore carrying on a virulent and malafide propaganda against me. They seem to have come only for that purpose, though ostensibly they say they are here for Karnataka unification. They do not know the problem involved but seem to have become willing tools of Sri K. Hanumanthaiah.

June 3, 1954 *Bangalore*

I have come to the conclusion that at least the first two bear ill-will towards me and are doing their best against me. I do not know what they can or want to do . I am watching them.

August 30, 1954 *Chitradurga*

Prapancha, a Kannada Weekly of Hubli, published an alleged interview with Sri K. Hanumanthaiah in which he has said that my attitude has been responsible for this

inactivity regarding Karnataka formation and is making false allegations. It is a malicious statement. Wrote to him and to the Editor as to the truth or otherwise. I am upset that he should have made such a statement.

September 9, 1954 *Bellary*

Andhras are still agitating to get Bellary town and three Phircas (Sub-divisions of a Taluk). Very unreasonable fellows. Saw the Commission's members Dr. Kunzru and Dr. Panikkar casually. Dr.Panikkar is extremely upset with Sri Hanumanthaiah and feels he is an upstart. He is said to have behaved indecently to a gentleman like the Chairman, Sri Fazal Ali while he was last in Bangalore. I do not believe they will disturb Bellary. They are anxious to have a bund to Thya Bancha. That is acceptable, but not giving away any area to Andhra.

December 1, 1954 *Bangalore*

Met many friends and many met me. The AICC seems to have instructed Sri Hanumanthaiah to seek a vote of confidence. Things are getting busy. I know Sri K.H. will use every possible method to save his position. But I am convinced that the man is undesirable evil and should be removed. Assembly is not of the highest quality.

December 10, 1954 *Bangalore*

Busy again. Many people feel that in view of Sri Hanumanthaiah's misrule he should go. There seem to be very good chances of his being sent out. Sri Madhavan Nair, President, I.C.F.C.C., has been deputed to supervise and report regarding tomorrow's confidence vote.

December 11, 1954 *Bangalore*

Sri. K.H. has to seek vote of confidence; meeting fixed at 1 p.m. Sri Hanumanthaiah got the confidence vote, rather

unexpected in view of hopes held out by a large number of MLAs. Very funny. Number of votes secured not disclosed.

January 23, 1956 *Bangalore*

Reached Bangalore. The train was as usual more than an hour late, though it left Hubli 15 minutes late. Sri Venkaji Rao met me. One Swamy is here, only busy with his film work. Ummanna looks more cheerful. News has appeared that Bihar and Bengal Provinces have both agreed to have one State. Also that Madras, Karnataka, Travancore-Cochin would turn out Dakshina Pradesh. This is rather surprising. I do not believe that the people of Bengal and Bihar would readily agree. Anyway I am certain this Dakshina Pradesh is not easy.

January 24, 1956

A number of people have been seeing me the whole day, Officials who have had an unfair deal specially in the Central Governments Ministers of Railways, Finance and Communications. Had a telephone talk with Sri K. Nadar. He told me that he has told the Working Committee at Delhi that regarding the Dakshina Pradesh proposal he had said that he would require time to consider. He spoke from Madras. He also told me that four or five people cannot take such a decision. Sri K. P. Madhavan Nair also spoke from Bangalore airport that the news was wrong and that the matter was not even seriously considered regarding Dakshina Pradesh and that nobody had committed himself. I also told him that I would not speak off hand and that we have to consult people. Sri K. H. also seems to have taken time. Sri Channiah possibly without knowing the full implications seems to have welcomed it. I am not sure this move is correct.

April 24, 1956

The discussion on the S.R.C. continued today. The speeches of Sri Gadgil, Sri S.K. Patil and Sri Feroz Gandhi were interesting. Gadgil made a very conciliatory and surrendering speech. Patil in spite of his vehement emotional appeal was rather unconvincing. Gandhi pleaded for Bombay in Maharashtra. The general feeling is that the city had better go to Maharashtra. That would mean a lot of controversy. I also feel like it. The Maharashtrians may have been unreasonable and behaved badly. But that is no reason why justice should not be done to them.

May 10, 1956

Today's *Times of India* published a sketch about me saying that I am a prospective Chief Minister of Mysore. Some friends brought it to my notice. Thougth I am not against it, I am not particular. This has pleased a few, mostly Mysore Vokkaligas and North Karnataka Brahmins. The sketch is also complimentary to me. We myself, Sri Shivamurthy, Swamy, and Gadipura Gowda met Dr. Radhakrishnan and requested him to preside over or inagurate Basava Jayanti on 13th. He said he was too busy.

May 26, 1956

Sri Gurupadaswamy met me in the Central Hall and told me that he had met several friends in Hyderabad and other places and that most M.L..As and M.L.Cs want me to be the next leader. But they, it seems, feel that I may not boldly hold out a leader and that I may even yield at the last moment. Possibly, my unwillingness to be a Minister in Mysore so far and my rather extreme aloofness has given rise to this opinion about me. I am beginning to develop during the last few months a wish to be the first Chief Minister as I feel I can serve the new State better than most

people as I am acquainted with the problems of all the Kannada areas.

July 25, 1956 *Delhi*

Yesterday the resignation of Sri C.D. Deshmukh, Finance Minister, was accepted and P.M. is in charge of the portfolio. Today Sri Deshmukh made use of the opportunity available to him and made a statement in the House. Though much of what he says is possibly true, but the way he put it, the language used and the entire approach left much to be desired. He was very bitter, caustic and discourteous. The PM's statement was pale though dignified. It is high time that the PM comes out of his shell and most of the objectionable insituation around him and sheds some of his prejudices and wrong prepossessions. This statement is sure to create some trouble in Maharashtra. The Executive Committee met in the morning and considered Sri Deshmukh's resignation from the party.

August 6, 1956

There is a lot of lobbying for a composite Bombay State of Maharashtra and Gujarat including Bombay City, and it seems a certainty. Pantji again took time till tomorrow to reply to the debate on Reorganisation of New States Clause. The Working Committee which is meeting since yesterday has decided in favour. Nehru met Gujarat and Maharashtra members and they have agreed except one or two. In the party meeting in the Central Hall it was decided that the composite State should be formed. All supported except Gadgil who voted against it. Later met Pantji along with Dange Jaisurya and others and told him that it has not been possible to agree to any area with Maharashtra. He said Government would not take a initiative. The whole matter stands there. Good.

August 9, 1956

Today the States Reorganisation Bill was practically passed as the second reading was concluded. I felt happy and proud that Karnataka State is after all coming into existence. I have the satisfaction that in spite of various difficulties this has been achieved and that I had a part to play in it. It is also a matter of pride of my work and service to our own people. Some of them are not very happy about me. That is often for caste considerations and equally often personal consideration. The Brahmin element specially outside Mysore is worse though I have never harmed anybody.

August 23, 1956

Had an interview with the President Dr. Prasad this evening. As usual he was kind to me and freely talked of several matters including his own future. I told him that it is our desire that he should continue to be President. He said that he has never been anxious and that it is left to the people.

September 15,1960 Vishvesvaraya's Centenary Celebrations

Got up rather early and went to Dr. Vishvesvaraya's house and wished him happy returns of his birthday. He was very affectionate and thanked me for today's celebrations. There were hundreds of people wishing him birthday greetings. Possibly that would tire him, I thought. He was as usual scrupulously dressed. Attended the Stamps Sale function by P & T which Jatti inaugurated. Went to Glass House in Lal Bagh at 9.30. People had already gathered and by 10 the whole house was full. Crowds could not be properly controlled and many who had been invited could not get in and some had brought all their families. The PM and the Maharaja came in time. But Dr. V. came half an hour late unusual for him even in this old age. He walked with

difficulty half the distance and the other half we carried him in a chair. The whole function was a grand success. I read my speech as Chairman of the Reception Committee rather fast to save time. The old man put up with the whole show very well. His speech was read by Vidya. Three addresses were presented. The PM spoke well. Dr. V. did not attend lunch in Vidhana Soudha. The PM and His Highness came in time and covers were laid for 500. It was arranged by the Celebration Committee as also morning's main function. Attended public meeting at 5. It was arranged entirely by Govt. and the volunteers dressed in Khadi were constables. I did not know of it till 2 hours before though I am President of M.P.C.C. Cultural Programme arranged by us was good. Vyjayanthi Mala performed. Closed at 8.30, dead tired.

September 16, 1960

Went to Nehru in "Royal Cottage" the Palace premises at 8 a.m. by previous appointment and told him what I feel about the present Mysore Ministry. My advice was that there should be a change and as such a person like L.B. Shastry may be sent here and a proper leader and ministry set up by agreement among both the groups. If things are allowed to drift bitterness will increase and in the next elections congress will not succeed. I felt there is reluctance to change. I told him it would be wrong not to take notice of the rift. He was very mild and there was no outburst. I also told him that some ministers were corrupt.

January 23, 1961. *V.H. Bangalore*

One month has passed after mishap. It has passed off fairly soon, I feel, the first 12-13 days in extreme pain and fever and other days in leisurely thinking. But I am not devoting myself to very serious thinking. Sometimes the Mysore

tolitical problem and the Indian political problems *vis-a-vis* the Congress Organisation are the subjects of my thought. The feeling is gaining on me. The Congress will stand disintegrated fairly early and form two political parties, one the right wing and the other left groups. It is only then there is democracy possible. As it is, there is wo much of corruption, nepotism, casteism and I know that most and loudest persons against them are the very persons who suffer most from these diseases. I do not expect such things from the highest persons even. Those in power womehow want to continue in tower at any cost and they do not care what happens to the organisation. They want it only to get them and their men returned. It is this disgusting and reprehensible psychology that is reponsible in most of the States for the cleavage between the two wings being so unduly in evidence. This cannot go on for ever.

February 1, 1961 *V.H. Bangalore*

The rush of people has increased today. This afternoon Rajasekhar Moorthy came and told me that the Governor had a talk with Jatti and seems to have admonished him for the slippery and unhelpful attitude he has adopted and pressed that Jatti should see me and come to an understanding. The Governor is also disgusted with Channiah and his behaviour and has forced unwilling Jatti to transfer Channiah's son-in-law Krishna from the Palace where Krishna was A.D.C.and was carrying every bit of information to his obnoxious father-in-law. I am told he is now transferred.

Jatti who was expected to come at 9 p.m. came at nearly 10 p.m. and spent half an hour with me. I told him that he should just get himself out of the clutches of Channiah if he is to be accepted by me. He said he is also tired as also the Governor and that he has transferred Krishna from the

Palace. Regarding the political struggle he said the Congress President Sanjeeva Reddy expects me to contact him and felt that he (Jatti) is willing to expand the ministry. I told him that I cannot by myself commit others and that I will have to talk to friends and ascertain their views and then only we can meet. He has agreed to do so and has promised to come to me when I send for him. He seems rather afraid to continue the struggle. He even said that the election may be held for the Election Committee according to my desire.

But he has been such a slippery person. I am afraid to depend on him entirely. Possibly Governor's insistence seems to have driven him to me.

April 5, 1961 *K.K. Bangalore*

As usual attended to work in the morning, went to the swimming pool and shook my legs for a considerable time. Though it pains it has enabled me to go up a few steps. In the evening, Dr. Murthy came and spent half an hour examining my leg and advising me to learn to go up and down the steps and walk as much as I can bear. No doubt the pain is considerable. But it has to be suffered.

Sri Ramanath Goenka came to me from Madras along with a friend and spent quite a long time nearly an hour and a half, talking as is usual with him, discussing and referring to all sorts of things including himself, myself, politics, etc. He is sorry about the way in which the Mysore Govt. has dealt with persons who have purchased some lands from the Palace and which have been adjudicated upon by the High Court deciding against the Govt. But he is not worried nor he is going to litigate about it. He is a valued friend of mine, has succeeded in business.

July 28, 1961 *Bangalore*

The Assembly met this moring possibly in view of Pm.'s visit. Went to the Airport at 10.30 a.m. The PM's plane arrived at 11 a.m. and we received him. Governor, CM and myself and Mayor garlanded him. There was the usual inspection and introduction. There was then the exhibition flight of the Supersonic fighter plane built entirely in the H.A.L. factory. It was interesting and the speed was impressive. At 4.30 went to the H.M.T. factory when the PM inaguarated the 2nd block of the H.M.T. factory which is built and equipped entirely out of its earnings. It is no doubt an achievement. K.C. Reddy presided. Nasrulla, the Chairman, welcomed and Patil thanked. The PM spoke very briefly and does not seem very fit and there were not those physical flourishes. The gathering was very huge and the huge big workshop was full. Possibly 5000 had gathered.

At 7 p.m. the PM addressed the Congress Party members in the Residency Hall. He came late. Even here he spoke not very long and he himself said he wanted to conserve his energy. He seems to have a cold. He spoke for only half an hour and nothing new either. He spoke of the necessity of discipline, candidates to be set up for the next election etc. He said Mysore had no strong opposition, etc.

After the dinner I went to him at 9.15 and was with him for half an hour in the Royal Cottage. Spoke about the necessity of an outsider as Chief Judge for High Court and urged that it should be done. More funds to be provided for Tq. Boards and Tq. Board Presidents should be given some pay. He said that he was against Sarpanchs (Taluka Board) getting pay and not against the Presidents of T. Bds. About the Maharaja he said, he is not suitable as an Ambassador for

big countries and would not be happy with small ones. He would consider about his being continued as Governor in Mysore only as he had himself expressed to resign it. I told him I was not interested in him but felt that since he is eager to continue as Governor in Mysore only I would mention it. I felt he had a better chance as Governor in another State.

November 24, 1961

The whole morning spent my time from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. studying the list of Gujarat. This State was known for its solidarity and unity. But due to the recalcitrant attitude of Morarji the whole edifice of the Congress is cracking. It is a pity. There was no dearth of visitors, specially persons seeking tickets from various States.

The lunch was delayed upto 2 p.m. and I was getting hungry and angry too. The meeting commenced a bit late and during the preliminary discussion which we had re:Gujarat it became apparent that the factions in Gujarat among the leaders were more pronounced than expected. Morarji and hope, the PCC President were on one side and Dr. Jivraj Mehta in his own way of assumed honesty and innocence was entirely with the other group. Morarji's behaviour was rude, haughtly, unreasonable and extremely partisan. Thakore was equally so. Human nature in its raw state was exhibited in the wrangle between these two factions today. Morarji was domineering. It is a pity that inspite of the feelings of most people to pull him down, nothing was done to do it. Even the PM seemed helpless. It is a pity that in the highest circles bullying should have its way. Finally for 26 names it was agreed to refer it to a sub-committee of Reddy, Indira and Morarji. This was suggested by Shastri. Strange that Dr. Mehta was not there. We must see what happens tomorrow.

August 23, 1968 *Delhi*

I am beginning to write this Diary again after a number of years. I hope I will keep it up regularly. This morning Atulya Ghosh and C.B. Gupta came for breakfast and we discussed about the attitude of Prime Minister regarding Russian occupation of Czeckoslovakia. Sri Ashok Mehta has resigned his ministership for the ostensible reason of having voted for Sucheta Kripaliani's amendment yesterday which was against the Government statement. He met me and C.B. Gupta at lunch time in Gurupadaswamy's house and was very much perturbed over the Czeckoslovakia affairs. Just then news was brought that India abstained from voting in the Security Council of the UNO. This surprised all of us. Possibly this may be due to fear of offending Russia. Both these are, according to me, not correct.

Myself, Atulya, Gupta, my two Secretaries Dr. Sharma and Sadiq Ali, met and after prolonged discussion decided upon a statement to be issued by me regarding Czech occupation. It was a statement which while condemning Russia does not use the words and also describes the action as offending the Charter. This may go against the Government's statement to a little extent. But I think it is necessary. In a situation like this we have to condemn Russia in no uncertain terms, for this under served rape of this small country. Let us watch the reaction of the Prime Minister.

September 4, 1968 *Delhi*

We met in the Working Committee both in the morning and evening. In the evening C. Subramaniam, Member, P.C.C. President and Sri Amagesan, Ambassador designate to Ethiopia discussed with me separately regarding Madras Congress matters. My feeling after hearing them is that

Kamaraj should adjust himself to changes. Attended dinner in my honour by the N.W.F.P. Refugee Association and spoke suitably. Very well attended.

The Working Committee met in the morning and after some preliminary talk which always precedes regular agenda being taken up, we took the matter of Centre- State relations. All matters came up and members specially Chief Ministers spoke bitterly against the delay and incompetence of the Centre, against the doctrinaire approach of the Planning Commission, the apathy and disloyalty and ineptitude of the civil services, etc. I also told them that the civil servants were utterly incapable and it was they that ruled and not the ministers. After discussion it was agreed that priority should be fixed and agriculture and connected subjects- irrigation, power, price fixation, credit, etc., should be taken up and after obtaining schemes and opinions from Chief Ministers, and the Planning Commission, a note for consideration of the subjects should be placed before the Working Committee for its consideration. I also mentioned 'production sharing or Barter, for establishing industries, about which I am very particular and that also will be considered next time. I feel something definite has been considered and taken up.

October 31, 1968 *Delhi*

Had a long talk with PM regarding elections in several States and finance. She told me that some industrialists have approached her and she has told them that the amount may be paid either to me as AICC President or to the PCC . She told me and confided there was too much of distrust, I agreed and advised her that if instead of being subjective and distrusting her colleagues she decides matter dispassionately and objectively, she is safe as P.M. for quite a few years and if she acts like that I would be happy to

help her. I am feeling that she is afraid of her colleagues. That possibly arises from the fact that she is not herself fully confident of her colleagues' loyalty. She is relying too much upon Dinesh Singh who to me seems to be her advertiser. If left to herself she is good. I have told her so.

December 24, 1968 *Bombay*

Went to Birla House for breakfast. G.D. Birla was there and welcomed me warmly. He is very earnest that there should be more industries and production should be increased and a large number of young men employed. According to him there are resources in raw materials and money in banks and skill as available. But there is no initiative. Of course he is interested in Private Sectors. I am also of the view that both Public and Private Sectors may be encouraged and have expresed myself openly. That possibly has impressed him. He promised all help for air-terms selections. S.K. joined us at the end of the breakfast. Cheques by Birla have been sent to AICC, no doubt but through PM. This has upset S.K. Patil and C.B. Gupta. This is politics. They were all happy to meet us. It is evident that Patil is very popular and all these people have a lot of regard and even affection for him. He has been of immense help to them. But his failure in the last election has made S.K. unhappy and all these friends and many important persons of Bombay want him returned to Parliament. I wish he will succeed in the Supreme Court.

January 12, 1969 *Patna*

After returning to Patna from Arrak I was advised very strongly by the P.C.C. President that we may postpone this day's programme. He was very much afraid and I had to agree to his request. I spent the whole day taking rest. I phoned to PM for money and said that from Bombay

G.R.D. Fafadsal and others must have seot money according to S.K. Patil. She denies having received anything, I am not inclined to believe her. I do not understand this lady. I do not understand what her game is or am misunderstanding her and doing an injustice. Her very close friend Dinesh Singh and Dixit are collecting money and telling people to send money direct to her and not to the treasurer of the AICC, Sri Patil. I will have to speak out next time. I meet the members of the C.E.C. or W.C. This is scandalous and harming the cause of the country.

January 17, 1969 *U.P. Delhi*

Sadiq Bhai, Gupta, Patil are here. Bhagat, Minister, also was there in the house. Bihar according to Sadiq Bhai and Bhagat needed funds. Phoned to PM at Saranpan and learnt from her that G.R.D. had sent only 4 lakhs. I told her that I would phone to all of them in Bombay in the morning. But after 2 minutes she herself phoned to me and told me that she found that a 5 lakh cheque has been sent. I told her that the amount should be sent to Bihar immediately. Looks fishy.

January 29, 1969 *Delhi*

Again took rest practically the whole day, only attended to correspondence and to certain long standing matters in which I had to consult Central Ministers. Both the Ministers for Commerce and Industry, viz., Dinesh Singh and Fakhruddin Ali, are, I feel, playing a game delaying matters.

The former purely out of incompetency and possibly an attempt to thwart industrial development with wome ulterior motive of which I am not sure and purely out of a desire to hold on and make people pay more money and to have control over everything. Both these specially Dinesh Singh seem to be in league with PM. She impresses me as being good and if left to herself she should do very well. These

small fellows and other flatterers round about her seem to spoil her. She on her part cannot rise above this sordid level and decide to be more friendly and have more understanding with people of better status who have the Nation's interest at heart. The result: there is corruption galore. I find it difficult to get on in this atmosphere.

February 12, 1969 *Delhi*

Rather a very disappointing day. Since yesterday as the results of the mid-term elections came pouring in only U.P. where we may just scrape through, we have miserably failed in Bengal and in Punjab. Bihar is third. But it is certain that though we are the single largest party we may not be able to form a Govt. Tomorrow the W.C. will have to decide. I expected to lose in Punjab. But the surprise is that all top-ranking leaders of practically all parties in the four States have been defeated. Does it mean that the leaders are at discount? Possibly fresh leadership has to grow. The most dangerous result is that of Bengal. We have to carefully watch how the United Front behaves and takes action to put them down and even have President's rule, if necessary. They are unpatriotic and almost Marxists in their approach and anti-democratic. I again received a phone call from Birla this morning that Calcutta is in a panic as the U.F. people are already threatening those persons who have helped Congress. We have to watch carefully.

March 10, 1969

Could not leave for Australia and Newzealand as Bihar and other States are creating problems. We have to see what happens in Bihar, re: election of Speaker. The CM there pleads that we cannot come due to that. I have advised the so-called dissidents led by Sri Daroga Rai not to abstain from voting for any reason. He has agreed to be led by me. I think things will become O.K.

In the Rajya Sabha today, Chandrasekhar, a Congress member, has spoken against Morarji Bhai in a scandalous manner making dishonest interpretations and I learn that the Executive of the Party is meeting today and tomorrow. In today's meeting, the PM absented herself and it seems Morarji Bhai wanted her to be present so that he can speak for himself as he would not do wo being Chairman in the absence of the PM. The PM as usual seems to be playing a game. It was a mistake on our own party mostly due to Kamaraj to have made her P.M. We are helpless now. This Chandrasekhar has no voots anywhere and is an adventurous one of the so-called "Young Turks" or as I wish to call "Paper Tigers".

April 23, 1969 *Delhi*

Atulya and Ashok Dutt, my hosts sometimes in Calcutta, came for breakfast. I have devoted the entire evening in finalising my Presidential Speech. Gupta and Sadiq Bhai have been helpful, the latter taking away the sting in some places in it and sobering it.

The PM wanted to see me at 4 p.m. and when I went there she discussed the agenda and made some suggestions. She made one statement which is absolutely false, viz., that Goenka had been told by me that she would not be PM for long and that he need not worry about his paper difficulties. I told her some mischievous people must have created this story and if I find that it is not good for the country to have her I would tell her straight. I am sure she concocted the story, though I would not be unhappy if she goes, as she is a person who is not truthful and would do anything if it served her purpose that she should be PM anyhow. It is a pity.

May 3, 1969 *Zakir Hussain passes away*

As usual after breakfast with a number of friends went to the office and at about 11.30 got a phone message in the office that Dr. Zakir Hussain is critically ill and by the time we were getting ready to go, within minutes, we got information from the PM.'s office that he had passed away. This was shocking. Though ailing for some time, it was not expected he would pass away so soon. We all rushed to the Rashtrapati Bhavan and we found Morarji Bhai and some other Ministers there. We were all in a way dazed and overwhelmed. I could see sorrow writ large on every face. After about an hour we went to some rooms in the ground floor and then finally decided to have the body lie in State in the Darbar Hall as that would be the fittest place. Details were settled to have the funeral on Monday evening. We closed our office, gave a statement to the press. In the evening Dr. Sharma came and explained to me the provisions of the Constitution and relevant Act as to how the Presidental Elections should be held. Dr. Sharma thinks I would be a fit successor. I said such a thought would be silly. Kamaraj came in the evening and said that we should have a man of strength, character and long association with the Congress and we should not worry.

May 15, 1969 *Delhi*

Finding a candidate for the Presidential Election is engaging every body's mind. PM is rumoured to be in favour of Giri and Kagjivan Ram, and lately Sardar Swaran Singh at the suggestion of Russia's Kosygin. Possibly she is searching for a man of her own choice who is willing to toe her line. When I just mentioned the subject she was not quite communicative nor was I. I think the candidate should be a genuine Congressman, and an honest man with a

reputation for honesty and earnestness, and who cannot stand any nonsense and cannot be pressurised. Tonight at about 9 pm I was with her for about 15 minutes. I could see a stiffness and I think I was equally so. When it came to the point of discharging the debt of 17 lakhs or so due by the AICC, she flew into a rage and said S.K. who is the treasurer should find the money and she would not do anything. It seems she is taking credit for all the collections as she managed to get the cheques through herself though drawn in favour of AICC, forgetting that all collections through cheques were as a result of my and S.K.'s join efforts atleast in Bombay. She is very uncharitable to S.K. and is highly displeased at his success in the Banaskantha Election. During the course of our meeting for the second time she asserted " I am the Prime Minister of India". I am making fun of her first assertion made sometime back and as a woman she wants to repeat.

May 18, 1969 *Delhi*

The question of Presidentship is now given a quietus as I am going away. It is significant that Russian papers or at least one of them should have welcomed our friend the Acting President, Giri. No doubt he is O.K. but very old, and friends homourosly remark that R.P. Bhavan may have another funeral procession. Evidently the PM seems to be playing a game and is possibly playing into Russian hands. Let us wait and see.

June 22, 1969 *Delhi*

Ten members nearly of the W.C. came to my residence and we had a fairly sumptuous breakfast. Then we discussed the draft to be prepared of the resolution on the economic policy. Subramanyam, Sanjiviah, Jagjivan Ram, Atulya, Fakruddin Ali, the Secretaries took part. Later Morarji Bhai

came. We decided that we should concentrate on items like land reforms, drinking water and free education upto secondary level. Home industries should receive priority along with agriculture and agro- based industries and small-scale industries which are labour incentive and fixing up minimum wages in rural areas. Draft has to be prepared by C.S. and Sadiq Ali. Immediately thereafter went to PM's house and discussed Telangana, her visit to Japan etc. She was very affable and friendly but never once mentioned President's Election. I also avoided.

Later after rest Telangana leaders, Ramachandra Reddy, Chokka Rao and again Dr. Chandra Reddy and Konda Bapuji separately saw me in pairs and discussed Telengana. All want the C.M. Brahmananda Reddy to go and President's rule to replace him. The first two are more reasonable and against separate Telengana, while the latter insist on both and argue like criminal lawyers. I told them I would meet them tomorrow morning after they have seen Morarji. Later spoke to PM at 10.30 p.m. and told her about my talks with these leaders and Morarji may be entrusted with this problem. She wanted Chavan to be included. She was particular that no separate State and no President's rule can be thought of and if there is anything else we may go all the way.

July 16, 1969

Rested in Bhadravati rest house till 11 and spent 2 hours in Guest House. Spent an hour and more with wife discussing marriage of Puri's (Purnima). She is anxious no doubt but wants the best son-in-law. Her expectations are rather tall and exacting. Possibly as all children are leaving or have left, she wants to hold on to Poori. She is also tired of being in Bangalore or wants to be with me whatever the Delhi weather. After lunch, left for Airport.

At Hyderabad Airport learnt that the PM has taken away the Portfolio of Morarji Bhai and taken Finance for herself. I told Press Reporter that it is rather unfortunate. Before I left I was informed the latest news that Morarji has sent in his resignation. That is but natural. She has, I think, acted unwisely and foolishly.

In Delhi I told the press the same as I had in Hyderabad and it would take time re. the next step whether a Working Committee or Parlimentary Board would be summoned to consider this new problem. Contacted Morarji and told him I would see him tomorrow. Most people are upset about this action of PM. I think it will create problems in the party as there is a fairly large section against the PM specially women members.

August 5, 1969 *Delhi*

One of the leaders of Swatantra came for breakfast. Atulya has been coming practically daily since Dalhousie. (We both stayed in Dalhousie in Himalayas on account of health). He is no doubt most welcome; but is he particular to know who came to my house. Tyagi and others came. I did not speak of election or voting at all since my guest may not like it in the presence of other guests and Dr. Keskar also dropped in. I have finished signing my letters which I began on 2nd evening. I had to sign nearly 4,000 letters. My rate is fairly fast as I do about 600 an hour.

The leaders of other parties are being contacted by me on phone who are outside Delhi. I contacted Mohd. Sadiq (or Bakshi Ghulam Mohamad CM of Jammu and Kashmir and he assured me that he would do everything for our candidate, Sri Sanjeeva Reddy. People suspect that he may not be fully with us due to PM. I do not believe either is true. But we should watch. Bakshi came this morning and said all MPs of J & K except one would vote for us.

At 7 p.m. the Parliamentary Board met and after a brief discussion on the suggestions of Morarji, Mysore Governor Pathak was accepted. The PM seemed to be in a mood to be accommodative. Other names were mentioned but this was most popular. Both PM. and myself phoned to Bangalore and got Pathak's consent at 8.30. I announced it to the press. She also consulted for Speakership and Dy. Speakership. It was agreed that Dhillon and Bhandare be accepted. Though I pleaded for K.H. it was not accepted possibly out of prejudice.

August 10, 1969 *Delhi*

The whole day I have been speaking to Congressmen and non-Congressmen in Delhi and outside by phone and personally. I have written to PM that in view of the developments in the party and outside, it is necessary that she should issue a statement as she did in the case of Zakir Hussain appealing to members of the Congress to vote for our candidate. I am not sure that she will do. She is riding a very high horse and her pride and presumptuousness do not seem to have any limits. Pride goeth before a fall. During the last one week there are demonstrations of taxi drivers and rikshawalas, students etc., going to her house and she has been addressing them as if she is the only one who works for the poor and complaining against a few individuals. Even the name of the Congress is not mentioned.

January 22, 1970 *Delhi*

As usual a number of visitors met in Morarji's house and discussed the statement to be filed by us re. the flag in Election Commissioner's Office. Learnt of Election case from Sri Rama Reddy. Sent reply to Rama.

Went to Congress Office at 6 p.m. and held a Press

Conference regarding Jagjivan Ram and my reply. Learnt that at 5 p.m. Sharma (S.D.), Secretary of the rival Congress came and was told to go away at the gate of J.M. Road of our office and he went.

February 10, 1970 *Delhi*

Had lunch in Old Delhi, the host was Sri Jaina a businessman. Important businessmen were there. I addressed them on the policy of Congress re. business, industry, production, etc. They were happy and promised to stand by the Congress.

Learnt that the Supreme Court has struck down Bank Nationalisation and declared it invalid holding it was discriminatory, etc. It is a blow to PM. She was so hasty and had done it just to dismiss Morarji Bhai. Dirty work.

Heard from Ram Subhag Singh from Lucknow that Gupta has resigned in favour of Charan Singh and a coalition Govt. consisting of ourselves, B.K.D, Jan Sangh, S.S.P. and P.S.P. has to be formed, Another blow to PM. I have been in consultation with Lucknow the whole day. Pressmen saw me and took my opinion.

February 13, 1970 *Delhi-Bombay*

Left for Bombay at 5 P.M. Kapoor, Morarji Bhai, Ashok Mehta were with me in the plane. Reached Bombay at 7 pm and stayed as usual in the airport. Sri Poonacha also was in the plane. He and Ashok Mehta stayed in the airport. Patil S.K. and some office bearers and others came and welcomed us. Patil spoke to me about the Organisation and bitterly complained against the PM who has plunged the entire country into an ugly situation. It is true she is misbehaving and it looks as though she holds nothing as sacred. She has power, she herself is a schemer and has expert advisers like D.P. Mishra. We have to work hard.

February 19, 1970

Had an informal Working Committee from 10 to 1 pm and discussed U.P. and Bihar situation as also what we have to do as a party in the Parliament which begins tomorrow. Both in U.P. and Bihar, Centre has interfered and the Governors have been pressurised to behave in an undemocratic manner. It is a pity that this PM. is fouling the entire political atmosphere. The sooner she is removed the better for democracy in this country. It is not easy.

February 23, 1970 *Delhi*

After breakfast and meeting some friends, went to office. Mahesh Babu of Bihar met me and expressed his desire to stand as a candidate for Rajya Sabha membership. I told him to meet other friends of the Parliamentary Board.

Parliament has begun to do work from today. We should watch with interest what is going on and relentlessly fish out this lady PM who as days pass is becoming more and more unscrupulous and politically undesirable.

Delegation from Mysore saw me twice regarding border question. Evidently PM wants to help Maharashtra. But MPs belonging to all parties are united against her in this.

Delegation consists of Ministers Rachiah, Kaujalagi, members Mallimut, Hallikery, Siddiah and others. They met yesterday President, PM and today Morarji, Ram Subhag. Kamaraj phoned and said he is coming on 3-3-70. Had phone from Puri from Bhubaneswar, things are improving in Orissa. The General Secretaries met me and discussed many matters.

February 25, 1970 *Delhi- Bangalore*

Veerendra Patil and others told me of the discussion in Assembly on the border problem which this mischievious

PM has created. She is creating problems unnecessarily everywhere. We must drive her out. That is the only way for safety and democracy in India.

March 4,1970 *Delhi*

Yesterday Morarji Bhai was examined as witness in the Supreme Court and his evidence is fully reported in the Press. This is the Presidential Election case going on since a week.

I was examined as a witness in the same case from 10.45 to 12.15. I think my evidence was satisfactory. I did not indulge in any exaggeration and spoke the truth as expected. Most of my evidence centred round the correspondence between me and the PM and her two henchmen Jagjivan Ram and F.A. Ahmad, a brace of dirty men.

In the evening went to Morarji Bhai and discussed the symbol case and what has to be done about it. Sri Shantilal Shah was also present and helpful and gave good suggestions. Morarji Bhai is dictatorial and took pleasure in disagreeing with Shah though he knows little of law. He again referred to Ram Subhag Singh having mismanaged this and that. Morarji is not big at heart. I feel he does not tolerate others coming up.

Kamaraj and Sanjeeva Reddy came and spent some time in the afternoon.

March 6, 1970 *Delhi*

Kamaraj came and we discussed many matters pertaining to the unfortunate situation brought about by this self- willed woman.

In the afternoon and evening lawyers came and discussed re. the symbol case and wanted material in the AICC office. I have told them to get it. Sys. Sadiq Bhai and Mishra were also preseot.

March 7, 1970 *Delhi*

Kamaraj and Sanjeeva Reddy came both in the morning and evening and spent quite some time discussing various States and situation in them. It was felt that instead of merely getting rid of this woman though she very much deserves it, it was necessary that the vast masses of people in all the States must be contacted and the situation in each State and generally in the country must be explained, the matters relating to property rights, excess of nationalisation and the specific and evident leaning of the PM towards Communism and Russia, should be explained to them.

March 11, 1970 *Delhi*

Inaugurated the Seva Dal Conference at 10.30 a.m. Representatives from most of the States have come. I think I was bitter against Indicate group and appealed to these convenors-youngmen and women not to be cowed down by power or influence but to work with faith, unity and discipline.

Self, Kamaraj, Sanjeeva Reddy, Ashok Mehta and Morarji Bhai and Patil met in Morarji Bhai's house and discussed the attitude we have to take re. the various problems of land reforms, agriculture, industries, fundamental rights, etc. It was agreed that we in Delhi should meet on 24th & 25th of this month and in the meanwhile we may carry on discussions. This was at 4 p.m.; carried on till 5.30.

March 12, 1970 *Delhi*

Day before yesterday, Kamaraj seems to have met D.P. Mishra in an MP's house and discussed politics. It appeared in yesterday's papers and caused surprise. Kamaraj need not have gone to meet most tolitically deprived Mishra, and Kamaraj said yesterday, that it is an attempt on Mishra's part to create confusion and nothing much happened and

that he refused to discuss politics and told Mishra I am not happy about this, Kamaraj seems to be not quite frank, though I am convinced nothing happened.

March 16, 1970 *Delhi*

Ashok Mehta told me and Sadiq Bhai and S.M. Mishra about what he has done in Orissa. I am glad he has been able to prevent the toppling of the present ministry there.

The Indicate is only interested in toppling every Government and even stable Governments. Miserable woman, wo self-willed and autocratic. Has she any character? Their so called President Jagjivan Ram goes to Gujarat and says that he will help Swatantra to topple the present Govt. and help to sustain an alternative Govt. which is in league with Swatantra. They or we are dishonest fellows!

May 17, 1970 *Delhi*

We had again meeting re. what we have to do. The Mysore elections, i.e. our failure in all the 3 by-elections to the Assembly has created a feeling of despondancy in all parts of the country. It is to be expected as Mysore is the strongest anti-Indira State, and pro-Congress. It is the money that played its part. But we were also too very complacent. Anyway it has taught us a lesson that we should not and cannot afford to be negligent. It is also true that our success in all the seven M.L.C. local bodies constitutencies has considerably repaired the damage.

May 19, 1970

Delhi-Kamalanayan Bajaj's Dinner Party 7.30 p.m.

Attended Kamalanayan Bajaj's Dinner to which all our party members had been invited. Morarji was there. He was not happy about my statement as also other statements about old leaders retiring. I do not know why he should be so

sensitive. I have a persistent feeling that he wants to be Prime Minister. Funny. He told me that Sanjeeva Reddy has somewhat grown soft, as P.M. might be influencing him, though he himself does not believe it. Of course, the woman is capable of anything. I do not believe Reddy will succumb to her wiles.

June 7, 1970 *Delhi*

Had a Press Conference at 6 pm and gave expression to my feelings about communal question and Harijans, Naxalities and how the PM has been utilising every opportunity for political purposes. While during all these months she has done nothing positive or constructive. I avoided a definite answer re. alliance with other parties excepting saying that we will be ready to co-operate with secular, democratic parties who stand by socialism by which the Congress has stood and defined.

June 12, 1970 *Hubli*

Since yesterday the W.C. of the Indicate is meeting and it is significant that they speak about R.S.S. and Shiv Sena being declared illegal bodies. They have nothing to say about Naxalities and C.P.M. They have now found a new subject, viz., fighting against communalism though the PM. has been doing her worst to bring about misunderstanding between the two major communities. I think it is her desire to bring about chaos in the country. She is becoming just a second Sukarno.

July 6, 1970 *Delhi*

After breakfast and meeting friends at my residence went to Morarji Bhai. Though he says he would come to my residence, I know that he, being elderly and senior, expects us to go to him. I always do go to him. We talked about the present situation and our talks respectively with

Swatantra, P.S.P, B.K.S and Jan Sangh leaders. The talks I must say have not been so far very yielding. But there is an under-current of feeling that the PM should go as she is definitely a danger to India's freedom and democracy.

Attended office as usual at 5 p.m. Met Kamaladevi and a representative Shetty of the Vijaya Bank and discussed about getting loan for Mallya building.

Had a Press Conference at 6 pm and explained our political resolution and how PM and her group have nothing to say against us except this old canard of Swatantra and Jan Sangh. I must say it was a fairly successful conference. Many journalists were clearly Syndicate inspired. It is necessary to hold more such. G.P.C.C. Sy. came and I explained to him our resolution. Sri Sharma, our advocate in the symbol case, came and enquired. Sanjeeva Reddy came and enquired of my eyes.

July 18, 1970 *Delhi*

As scheduled yesterday went to Morarji Bhai's at 10 a.m. He is very much for the implementation of the AICC resolution regarding democratic parties cooperating to oust the Indira Govt. But while I appreciate his desire to oust this undemocratic Govt, I feel his motivation arises equally from his desire to be in power. It is a pity that it is so apparent that he is so earger, anxious and determined to be PM. I wish he does not show his mind so openly. I also wish that instead he should declare that he has no desire for office. That would give our effort a tremendous boost. But it is difficult to find leaders in India in any party who are not anxious for power. It is this which has vitiated the entire political atmosphere in this country and made thinking sections of the people irrespective of party affiliation, to look down upon us. It is this weakness again which has shaken the faith of people in us. This yearning is so un-

Gandhian and coming from old people makes it more contemptible.

July 21, 1970 *Thirupathi Conference*

After breakfast on the hills discussed with about a dozen leaders of Kerala including Bawa, Abraham for about 45 minutes along with Kamaraj, Sanjeeva Reddy, Gurupadaswamy, the Kerala situation vis-a-vis the ensuing elections. We advised them to keep us informed about the developments. It is most complicated.

Passed 3 resolutions in the conference. The main resolution meant to support the AICC. Two others referred to PM's Mysore visit and States and centre and PM's interference other than Kerala. Veerendra Patil spoke on the main resolution but was rather confused and confusing. I was not impressed by his attitude. He is not a fighter in the sense we have all been all these years.

After lunch and rest on the top of the hills went to the temple for "Darshan" which was arranged. I do not know how we made God give Darshan as is convenient to "big" persons. Strange, Kamaraj, V.Patil, Alva etc., were present. I do not at all believe in these things but make use of these mass shows for political purposes. Is it right?

July 25, 1970 *Parliamentary Board Meeting, Delhi*

Parliamentary Board meeting at 5 p.m. and went on till 8.30. The mischievous propaganda against the AICC resolution has had its effect and our own responsible people are being misled that it contemplates an election alliance only with Jan Sangh and Swantantra and not a calling for cooperation of the democratic parties to defeat P.M's designs taking us away from democracy. The worst are Gujarat friends. Vaju Bhai, an honest Congress man & President of G.P.C.C is one such. Several persons spoke. But it was evident after

some time they began to appreciate that the main object was to defeat PM's evil design to perpetuate herself at the cost of even the country's interests. Veerendra Patil came late and spoke only a few preliminary words. Hiten Bhai is coming tomorrow. I have no doubt they will appreciate the causes behind our AICC resolution. The pity is that many friends do not even read the resolution properly and in full. Of the friends that spoke Manubhai Shah was the most critical. He spoke about Jan Sangh and made a mischievous speech. Possibly he does not like Morarji and wants his place secure for Lok Sabha in the next elections.

August 3, 1970 *Delhi- Bombay*

Morarji Bhai, Kamaraj, S. Reddy, Ram Subhag Singh came and spent about an hour or more discussing co-operation. It was generally agreed that we may begin by having the coordination committee with us, Jan Sangh and Swantantra. Morarji wants to be its Chairman. It is pitiable how he tries to be that. Others may be Dr. Singh, one of each. There is a feeling among the rest of us that while this may be done we may wait for others like B.K.D. Dravid (DMK). S.S. P to come in, M. is in a hurry.

In the afternoon Somani came at 4. I told him that the big industrialists are timid and one should have nothing to do with them. Rajmata of Gwalior came and spent some time with me. She is particular that in U.P. we defeat PM's plans and that would be the beginning. She believes in democracy. That to me seems welcome.

August 20, 1970 *Delhi*

Tyagi came as usual for breakfast. He is always welcome. The new cook is adjusting himself. Went and saw Morarji and on way back Kamaraj. Nothing new.

In the afternoon Masani saw me and spent some time with

me. He said that the AICC resolution was very good and his party and Jan Sangh were substantially in agreement with it. He said our hesitancy in implementing it, has frustrated many people and wanted that I should meet him and Jan Sangh leaders. I said I had no objection to meet them and others provided they had faith in democracy and I know Swantantra and Jan Sangh were democratic. Regarding Kerala I told him to meet Gurupadaswamy who has just returned after doing good work there.

August 30, 1970 *Delhi*

Morarji is anxious about what we have to do regarding the Privy Purse Bill. I had a discussion with him and we agreed that it should be opposed on the ground that it is not properly brought up, picture incomplete, etc. Consulted B.R.L. Iyengar about an amendment to be sent to the Bill. Morarji wanted it. Rajasekharan returned from Bangalore. All are well there.

Patiala Maharani came at 4.30 p.m. and brought news of the various parties, attitudes in Parliament regarding this bill and said that the PM is getting fidgetty and nervous. It seems there is difference of opinion in her cabinet. All sorts of news are current in Delhi. I do not believe them. She the Maharani is an MP. A clever intelligent person.

Kamaraj came from Madras. At 5.30 myself, Morarji and Kamaraj met at my residence and discussed the Bill on Privy Purse and agreed to oppose it as it is defective and would give a handle to this unscrupulous PM. to make more money. We discussed finances for elections, organisational matters, etc. Later in the evening Sanjeeva Reddy and others came and went.

September 15, 1970 *Bangalore*

Since two days violence has broken out in Kerala specially

in the Northern districts, between Muslim League and Marxists. PM as usual has tried to do mischief connecting us with Marxists in order to hide the party's marriage with Muslim League and C.P.I. She has again harped on the treatment to minorities by the majority community in the Muslim minority constitutencies. If there is one person who can be held responsible today for communal misunderstanding between Hindus and Muslims during the last 6 months, it is this woman. The sooner she is got rid of, the better it is for India.

September 18, 1970 *Bangalore*

A very bad day, I have been anxiously hearing the results of Kerala Elections. The Indicate had done well, very well. They, the Muslim League and the C.P.I. may have a Govt. I am writing at 9.15 pm. We have not ben able to secure even one seat out of 113 announced so far. This is unfortunate and unexpected . The Congress has had no organisation worth the name and the only reason why Indicate has emerged as the single largest party is because of money and money only.

The darkest hour is before dawn. We need not be disheartened or cowed down. On the other hand we have to work hard and see that the organisation is built up from the bottom. It is because of our weak organisation, indifference and self complacency, we have become what we are specially in Kerala.

October 8, 1970 *Delhi*

U.P. problem is getting more and more complicated. It looks as though our attempts to get a unanimous choice may not succeed easily. Prakash Vir Shastry and his friends are evidently anxious to have Charan Singh as C.M. though Singh has said that he may be counted out as a CM. Possibly

this is a game being played by him to heighten his stature while at the same time his friends work for him. Gupta and quite a few friends are here. Gupta is angry about Singh's statements and our Dr. Ram Subhag Singh extolling and pressing his case for Chief Ministership. Dr. R. is often impulsive and unwisely. So I am not sure if it is not purposeful. Quite a few friends are phoning to me.

In the evening had dinner in S.K.'s house. We discussed U.P. again. It is generally felt that if we succeed in foiling PM's nasty and unabashed attempts to put her stooge Kamalapathi or have Governor's rule, we will have succeeded in taking one first step against her. Otherwise it would be difficult for democratic parties to lift their heads. That is the feeling everywhere.

It was agreed at the dinner that as Charan Singh has arrived in Delhi tonight as a result of my request, Gupta and he should be made to meet at breakfast in Gupta's residence. We also felt that without Singh being preseot in Delhi nothing gould be done to the call.

October 9, 1970 *Delhi*

This is really a good day. Since, Gupta and Singh, as expected did not meet this morning, we were waiting eagerly for developments. Luckily Singh came as expected with S.K. and other friends. We kept all others outside and only myself, S.K. and Singh had a fairly long talk and both appealed to him to see that they came to a common decision. We managed to get Gupta. S.K. himself went and fetched him and all four of us spoke for sometime. Finally S.K. and myself appealed to them that in the interests of democracy and the country they should settle between themselves and we will do everything to implement their decision. We closed the door and left the two to themselves and asked them that they should come out when they found a solution.

We all including Morarji Bhai sat in the hall. After about 45 minutes both came beaming and said they had settled on T.N. Singh. Both left to meet the leaders of other parties and very soon T.N. Singh's name was unanimoulsy accepted. In the afternoon we had a tea party in 6, Janpath to celebrate this decision. I, Gupta, Ch.Singh, Girdhari Lal, representatives of Jan Sangh, S.S.P., Swatantra, P.S.P, and Bihar's Shoshit Dal spoke. After that we met again in the W.C. and took wome decisions including U.P. In the afternoon for lunch I had H.V. Kamath and we had a long talk. Morning Masani came and said Dinesh Singh, Cabinet Minister, is willing to be CM and to leave PM's Cabinet.

December 22, 1970 *Delhi*

RSS (local) Chief Rajnarayan saw me and was with me for an hour.

Masani-12 noon.

Tyagi came for breakfast as also Mr. and Mrs. Malgaonkar of *Times of India*. Pratibha's children are very noisy specially the }ounger fellow Sanjay. Suman is more quiet and is a charming girl. Speaks English in English accent. It is a pleasure to hear children's voices and we are happy. Prathibha wants to stay for wome time in Delhi and we both want it very much.

Masani as per his telegram came today instead of tomorrow. He is an intolerable person and is so anxious to commit us to his own ideas. I am getting tired of the man. He thinks he and his Swatantra Party only exist. The whole world should adjust itself to him. I told him we may wait till 31st by which time I may be able to have a clear picture of the opinion of all the parties. Yesterday we got news at 6 pm that Karpuri Thakur has been sworn in at Patna as S.V.D. Leader and that 9 more have been sworn in. I am getting

news through phone calls from Ambika, Charan and Satyendra. It is good, that after all the Governor has sworn in them and a non-Indicate Govt. is formed.

March 8, 1971 *Press Conference, Delhi*

In the afternoon strangely enough G.D. Birla phoned to me and asked me about the poll and when I told him there are equal chances for both parties, he said he would contact me again. He was avoiding me these 3-4 weeks lest I request him for help for elections. These industrialists, most of them, want to be on the good side of everybody that is or may be in power or wome influential position. I pity them.

March 10, 1971

By evening the results of the poll as put forth by the Radio are devastating for us. It looks as though all the other parties, except Congress Indira or R, are being routed. The worst to lose are we the Organisation Congress. In UP and Bihar, the biggest States where we thought we would make some considerable headway and they would be in a minority, all of us including J.P. are completely washed out and in U.P. where we expected at least 25 returns we have been able to get one single return.

Rajnarayan, who opposed Indira and hoped even to defeat her, has been defeated by a big margin of more than one lakh and ten thousand votes. This was expected. But what of the rest of the country. She is sweeping like a wild fire everything before her. Strange yet true. Many among us are going. S.K. Patil has lost. Ashok and Sanjeeva Reddy are losing. Others like Tarakeshwari, Ram Subhag are losing. What has happened to other States? Things are nothing better. Can it be money, AIR propaganda, organisation, luck, or all of them together? Mysore is also going out completely. It seems in all the 27 constitutencies R is leading. Strange but true.

May 15, 1971 *Bombay, A.I.C.C.*

Got up at 5 a.m. and after breakfast left International House (Bhulabhai Auditorium) at 8 and reached at 8.40 and took some rest as I felt weak. There was flag hoisting at 9.30 by me and then AICC meeting at 10. I addressed both and I think both the speeches, though short, were appreciated. I made out that Congress would have no understanding and alliance with other parties and that there should be no talk of unity and that instead of slogans and stunts there shoud be a constructive approach and building of infrastructures like irrigation and power production so that there may be production and more wealth for distribution, etc.

After the preliminaries C.B Gupta moved and S.K. Patil seconded that the President should nominate the next President. The resolution was passed with only 6 against. I had to accept the responsibility. Sadiq Bhai who is universally supported refuses to be the President. There is opposition to others Ram Subhag Singh, Pratab Chander, Verma, Abid Ali, etc. The two leaders Kamaraj and Morarji are at war, Kamaraj supporting Singh and Morarji opposing him. Both of them are utterly self-willed and each wants to have the leadership even though we have grown weak. These two are mostly responsible for having made the Congress weaker. Kamaraj has worked hard in his own State. He is narrow and short-sighted and so is the other. I find R.S. Singh has a lot of support even though he is not the best choice.

September 8, 1971 *Delhi*

S.K. told me yesterday that I may stay in Bombay for 2 or 3 days. He left this morning. I am leaving tomorrow morning for Bombay. This morning Kamaraj, Sadiq Bhai, S.D. Mishra came and discussed the latest developments and the anti-democratic and autocratic power of PM. Kamaraj was

wondering as to what happens to this country at this rate. He flatly denied that he had anything to do with her or her party or Subramanyam of whom he has a poor opinion.

Went to Morarji Bhai at 11 a.m. and spent some time with him discussing Gujarat, etc. He was in favour of the 24th Amendment when the W.C. met last month and we supported it in spite of my protests. But today, he told me he was not in favour of it. Funny. This weakness of our own to look radical is killing us and the nation. We are inexhorably being driven towards Communism. We take more satisfaction in expropriation than production. Foolish approach will end in our going bankrupt and weak.

November 13, 1971 *Bangladesh*

At about 8 p.m. UNI man informed me that two Secretaries of AICC, Sharma and Yadav along with 200 goondas trespassed into 7, Jantar Mantar and forcibly bodily removed Sadiq Bhai out of the building and are in occupation of the building and in spite of information to PM who has just returned from her tour this morning at 9, nothing has been done. This criminal act has been perpetrated within 3 to 4 hours after her return. This is how things are going to happen in the future. This is a forecast of what we can expect from this Govt. which respects no order or law. This has been done in spite of the Supreme Court's order that the question of property will be determined by competent civil courts. The only thing left to us now is to agitate for the removal of this Govt. and to face the consequences.

November 20, 1971 *Delhi - Madras*

Had breakfast with two Americans and a Delhi Journalist. The two Americans seem to be interested in Education and are very anti-communist. They liked our vegetarian breakfast. They recorded my opinion about communism, PM's attitudes, etc. They also seemed Anti-Negro.

Left after taking wife's permission for Madras in time at 9.25 and reached there in time and was welcomed by quite a few friends with garlands at the Airport. Staying in Woodlands Hotel of Krishna Rao's. Quite comfortable.

Went to Rajaji's house at 5.15 p.m. and spent about 15 minutes with him. He is disappointed and upset that an opposition democratic front is not formed in Parliament and wished that even though he has lost hopes it would be possible even now. His intellect is quite sharp and he feels that the spirit which animated us to take risks during the freedom struggle is called for now. I have assured him that I will do my best. He is happy and hoped that the machinations of the PM will not succeed. Saw Bhaktavatsalam who lost his wife yesterday. It was a courtesy call. Press people met me at noon and evening. Vicky Kapoor is here.

December 2, 1971

The 25th Amendment was passed yesterday. Kamaraj and even Morarji are said to have supported it. It is unfortunate that our office as decided in one of the W.C. meetings has not consulted any lawyer. I do not know if Kamaraj really understands the legal implications, but he seems to take pride and derive satisfaction that he has an image of radicalism. I am upset. I have written to Sadiq Bhai that I am reaching Delhi on 11th or 12th and will discuss with friends about the implications of the Bill and if this, from my point of view, reactionary Bill becomes law, whether I am bound to support it or whether I can get out of the Congress and seek my own future. Even for the few years left to me I cannot tolerate this law.

Mahalinga Shetty and Parvathi came and I had long discussions with Shetty. He wants me to agree to accept

this law. I am very much upset and want to get out of all this and fight out in my own way.

December 3,1971 *Dharwar-Emergency Declared*

This 25th amendment has upset me. I wrote today to S.K. Patil giving out my views on the results of this Bill and telling him that I may discuss with him re. Bangladesh and relations with Pakistan, when I am in Bombay. But the situation is disquieting very much. As could be expected China has taken a definite stand in favour of Pakistan. America willy-nilly may go with China, Britain may also. The Middle East and Muslim countries are favouring for obvious reasons Pakistan. The only friend left is Russia. Even of them I am not sure if they will openly help us. They have sought our friendship and we have sought theirs because both of us are almost isolated. We have to wait and see if they will really help us if there is a showdown. The military dictator, Yahya Khan is crying hoarse that he will begin the war. We are indulging in platitudes all the time and seem to be on the defensive and think that the world will respect us if we take this stand. I think it is foolish. The world respects only strength. Even now we may recognise Bangladesh and carry the war into Pakistan and try to smash them in the East. The world will do nothing. Towards evening today Radio announced that the PM and the Defence Minister are rushing back to Delhi and an announcement would be made at midnight by PM. Good, I wish war will be declared.

December 4, 1971

Yesterday night after an unseemly delay of nearly 25 minutes from midnight to 12.25 a.m. the PM came on the air and declared an emergency. The speech lacked fervour, pep and ginger. Anyhow after all some positive step has been

taken, that too only after about a dozen of our airfields in the north in Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan had been bombed and strafed. We have been anxiously listening to the frequent broadcasts and glad to learn that our ground troops and navy are doing well. War has been declared by Pakistan. Welcome. We have declared emergency and gone into Pakistan territory both in west and east. Defence of India Act has been passed by our Parliament. Let us face up and fight. We will win.

December 5, 1971

Listened throughout the day as news came in regarding war with Pakistan. Our forces of defence on land, air and sea seem to be doing very well. Though others could be slight or even considerable exaggeration over our success or the opposite regarding our losses. But the picture that emerges is very encouraging and we must congratulate and be proud of our Jawans in both the Eastern and the Western Sectors. I have a feeling that the conflict in Bangladesh will soon be over as the Pakistan army has to meet not only the enemy from outside but also from inside. The local population should be entirely against them. So the conflict may soon be over. But that in the West may not be so easy. What with the Chinese help and possibly that of Middle East Muslim countries, America and the indifference of the rest of the world except Russia, Pakistan will not yield so easily and we may have to face a prolonged war. We will be prepared for that.

December 8, 1971 *Bangalore*

Today's voting in the U.N. Assembly is an indication if any, how India has suffered terribly internationally both in influence and stature. We could only secure 4 as against 104 against us. What has this poor misguided, presumptous, overbearing, immature woman the PM has achieved by her

desperate flights to several countries while her Dy. Minister and Cabinet Ministers have been visiting every important country and stating that the whole world sympathises with her view. Our embassies are a thorough failure and our representatives are gay birds most of them drinking and womanising I am told. Pakistan has done better. We have a first class case but badly, ineptly and incompetently handled. Anyway we need not be cowed down. Nobody respects unless we show and develop our strength instead of indulging over much to please our so- called friends. We must build up unity, strength and irrespective of any differences, work together all of us as a team.

December 17, 1971 *Ceasefire*

It is good that this afternoon Pakistan has accepted India's suggestion and has also agreed to a ceasefire by them. The Bangladesh freedom is a great blow to Pak and possibly a greater blow to USA prestige. Nixon has been behaving in a foolish way. As Indira Gandhi says we cannot afford to be complacent. She has now become a great hero and seems to take pleasure in the flattery that is heaped on her. She deserves compliments for her brave attitude during these two weeks of fighting though her flying about to several countries before, looked silly and immature. I approve. I am sure she and her party will get stronger and will make political capital out of this winning in the war. The credit also goes really to the 3 wings of the Defence Forces. They have been magnificent and every Indian is proud of them. One good thing this war has shown is who really are our friends. I feel there has been none except Russia and her small satellite States who have expressed sympathy. Our silly friendship with the Muslim countries began by Nehru has shown how wrong it was. Let us be careful about them. We need not try to hug them just to please local Muslims.

January 13, 1972 *Dharwad*

It looks as though Indira Gandhi wants complete control in the States as she has in the capital. Except U.P, Orissa, Madras and Kerala, State elections are going to be held. I do not know why she has not decided on elections in that State as she is very particular of sending out the Chief Minister Kamalapathi Tripati whom she has never liked. He is a rotten and a throughly discredited fellow with no character. But who has any character? Has this woman the PM any character? The only quality that is admirable is her quick decisions and the capacity to implemeot them. She has been lucky so far. Though she and her stooges proclaim that the much lauded agreement with Russia does not affect India's non-aligned policy, everything that is being done after that agreement is pointing towards her Pro-Russian posture. Everyday agreements with Russian stooges like Toland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, etc., countries which are dealing with us in Rupees and robbing us of crores of Rupees. Democratic free world seems to sway from the calculations. This does not augur well for democracy in India. We have to fight against it. But most of us even in the opposition are cowards and do not want to say anything against her. I am afraid even leaders like Kamaraj, seem to be so, not to speak of smaller fry like Veerendra Patil who yearns for power and position. Now power has corrupted us and how completely!

March 5, 1972 *Polling 1st Day*

Today is one of the two important days along with 8th when polling for the State Assemblies is taking place. This poll is crucial in that the immediate political future is to be decided whether democracy or controlled democracy which in other words means autocracy should prevail. We have to wait for a week for the whole picture of the country to emerge.

I along with Raja went and voted. Saw Sowkar Veerabhadrappa in his house. His left ear has been operated. He is alright.

Radio broadcasts said that the voting in all the 500 and odd constituencies has been peaceful except for one or two small incidents. I have no news in particular from any of the 8 constituencies in our district as to the elections. Received a telegram that I must go to Hubli and some one or two places. I replied that I will reach Hubli tomorrow at 1 p.m.

March 12, 1972 *Dharwad*

As the day went on more and more news of R. winnings everywhere in the press and radio is touring. In the most unexpected places, they have won. I have a feeling after looking at and considering these results that there is again an abuse of the ballot box. This time coloured paper has been used. They have already a clear majority in Mysore, Andhra, Maharashtra and are going to have more in all others. They are leading, very strange, even in Delhi city, they have won an absolute majority. Money of course has played its part, possibly the poor are still labouring under the illusion of *Garibi Hatao*. But the most important factor seems to be the ballot of mischief. Sin will be out some day. She has sown the wind. I am sure she will reap the whirl-wind fairly soon. We have to wait and see. But our friends should not be down-hearted but take up the challenge and organise all the better and educate the masses of people. Possibly the budget of the Centre and the States will give sufficient handle to us. I am not sure how our friends react now, i.e., how Veerendra Patil and his colleagues will behave.

July 4, 1972 *Chitradurga*

Of course, generally, the world over there is welcome to

the India-Pakistan agreement. This generally happens. Further in the agreement itself there is nothing which can be objected to. One can only wish that the two countries will earnestly try to implement what they had said. In Nehru's time there was an agreement of this sort between us and Pakistan. But it did not work. Now that Pakistan has learnt a lesson, it may be more reasonable. But the one matter which is a stumbling block is Kashmir, though much of its importance is lost both in meaning and content after Bangladesh has become sovereign. We have to wait and see at least for about 6 months as to low the agreement will work.

August 15, 1972 *Independence Day, Dharwad*

It was a delightful morning, cloudy and dark but the air was crisp and clean. I was happy to walk. The whole day AIR was full of news as usual the major portion being given to what the PM was saying or had said. Of course this has to be done to some extent, but not to this extent.

I was not invited to any function. Few people knew my address even in Dharwad and Hubli. But our own Congress people, I felt a bit neglected and thought they were treating me with indifference. But what a silly thought: Why should I feel that I should be invited and only feel disappointed ? After all we are a free nation and that is to that extent the end of it though much seems to be done and very much more is to be undone, considering what has happened during the last 3 years of Indira's rule and the way in which democratic rights and canons are being affected and even abused all in the name of democracy.

November 1, 1972 *Kannada Rajyotsava Day*

Today is the 16th anniversary of the Unification of Karnataka and formation of a single State. It was on this day in 1956

that President Rajendra Prasad inaugurated the State. Jayachamaraja Wodeyar was Governor and I was Chief Minister. I listened to the Radio. Not one word was said about us and even those who had worked hard for the Unification of Karnataka were not mentioned though many persons have toiled even rendered devoted service since 1925. Poor little fellows. History is given the go- by in their mad infatuation to boost themselves.

I am glad that the name is going to be changed soon from Mysore to meaningful and historic Karnataka. I grieve Doddameti, who was so much wedded to have the name changed, is no more. Similarly our friend Hallikeri ought to have been alive. It is a pity both of them are no more. It is interesting that fellows who had opposed the very name and even the formation of the State are now expressing themselves as though they were wedded to the idea. One of them is this little Jatti who by cringing has become new Governor. Arguments are being heard from today regarding Fundamental Rights in the Supreme Court by 13 Judges.

December 25, 1972

The evening Radio broadcast the news that Rajaji died. His death was expected though the afternoon radio said his condition improved. At this age one expects after Uramia has appeared, only death. A great life greatly lived. Practically the last man among the giants who led and fought in the freedom struggle under Gandhiji. The one man living is J.B. Kripalani. I issued a statement to the press through P.T.I. and sent a telegram of condolence to his son Narasimhan.

December 29, 1972 *Dharwad*

This Shankar Dayal Sharma the Congress R. President is a dunce and crude. He has nothing new to say and nothing

original. He repeats parrot- like what the Indicate said almost 3 years ago about Grand Alliance, outside influences, reactionary elements, etc., in his Presidential address. As my General Secretary, I had occasion to see how dull he was and how inefficient. I find he has not improved. My wonder is how the man was able to pass so many examinations. Perhaps mugging. Disloyal fellow having vowed loyalty to me till late the previous night and defecting in the next morning, and joining her, he has the cheek to warn and tell others to be loyal and disciplined. But why accuse him, their supreme leader is an example of dishonesty, disloyalty, corruption, indiscipline and consciouslessness. These are the attributes of the party now since most of the leaders suffer from them and enjoy power because of them.

The decisions taken disclose nothing new and nothing to enthuse the people. Nothing constructive comes forth and little that suggests any methods or means of greater and intensified production. Only statistics. Communist philosophy is in abundant evidence.

January 23, 1973 *Dharwad*

The PM has made a statement in some village in West Bengal-Taluk or so, that all the violence in the several parts of the country is an expression against her and it is reason. This is just the feeling of a dictator in the making- raw, vulgar. She is not capable of understanding why it is being done. Possibly she is so informed and made to believe by the sycophants and flatterers round about her. When is she going out I wonder.

March 6, 1973 *Bijapur District Tour*

Left Bijapur with Kabadi M.L.C. and other two workers for tour of Indi Taluk. We travelled about 100 miles and did

not see any agricultural operation anywhere. This is thashing season. There was not a single stack of *Jawar* crop. We visited about 10 villages and every village presented a distressing sight. Cattle are the worst sufferers and nearly half of them are sold for small sums and farmers could not support them nor feed them and they had to get something to save themselves from starvation. Water scarcity is growing and in some villages it is aleady acute. Food is scarce and Govt's callousness is patent. They do not seem to feel that famine exists and in fact staring in their faces. It is being treated in cavalier fashion and it is glaring when we look at the other side of the border in Maharashtra and no wonder many people think that here they would have been more happy if they had been in Maharashtra. Mysore Govt's attitude is at once inhuman, unimaginative and irresponsible. People are getting frustrated as no promise or assurance either oral or published has been implemented.

Reached Indi at about 9.30 p.m. had usual dinner. The T.B. [Traveller's Banglow] is rather dirty but possibly sufficient.

March 13, 1973 *Bangalore*

I have been thinking of Veerendra Patil's attitude of yesterday's meeting and his almost complimentary references to PM. I wonder if he is thinking of some compromise with her. He may, I suspect, go to her if a proper place is offered. But it won't be as far as I know. Did I again make a mistake in naming him to be M.P.C.C. President? But he has also behaved well. Possibly he is more subjective than objective having had no background of the struggle and standing up against injustice.

April 26, 1973 *Bangalore*

Day before yesterday on 24th, Supreme Court gave judgement in the Fundamental Rights case and connected

cases involving Constitution Amendments 24, 25, 27 & 29th. I think the majority judgement has upheld Parliament's right to amendment. Regarding compensation the quantum is made justiceable. We cannot quarrel with the judgement and possibly the PM may feel she has added another feather to her cap. I do not believe that this is the last word. It may be agitated again. Yesterday fuller judgements came and today superseding 3 Judges including Hegde, Justice Ray is made Chief Justice of India creating a new precedent. I am sure his judgement which supports govt. in every respect except in giving power to the States under Amendment 25, has been responsible for this appointment. Possibly he is a committed Judge open or covert. It is an interesting development. What about the 3 Judges?

July 10, 1973 *Bangalore*

Posted letters to C.B. Gupta, Morarji Bhai, S.K. Patil and Sadiq Bhai regarding accepting Ashok Mehta as the Congress President. So I do not believe there is any serious objection to his being elected. Somebody told me that Smt. Tarakeshwari's name has been proposed. I think she is unfit from every point of view except that of being glamorous and making speeches. She has not the character for presidentship.

July 17, 1973 *Bangalore*

Ashok Mehta is staying in West Coast Paper Mill's Guest House, though Veerendra Patil would have arranged in Ashoka Hotel. He is comfortable. I met him and had long discussions. He is, as I am, sure to be President and is trying to prepare the ground for his future. He wants us to have alternatives. What we should do if we are approached by PM. Whether we should not build up our strength, both to take up an alternative Govt. and also to make her

approach us; what should be our attitude towards other parties, etc. I told him I would give preference to strengthen the organisation and should be careful in approaching either PM or others or in allowing them to approach us. Evidently he is feeling the pulse. He had breakfast in Patil's house and Ashok had Press Conference at 10.30 and we two met between 12 and 1. At 1.00 we had lunch in Hegde's very posh, big and very costly house. Where he got this money to build it, is mystery to me. So also V. Patil's house a building as big etc. After I rested in Hegde's at 4 we met there only, Ashok, myself, Patil, Hegde and Gurupadaswamy. Hegde was very careful and did tightrope walking. Patil was crude, he said Congress workers were even now listless, unenthusiastic and pleaded for coming together with R. Ashok felt and expressed that he was suffering from diffidence and should shed it. G. Swamy felt team spirit was lacking in State P.C.C. I said there was no attempt to contact people and strengthen the organisation. Patil as usual mentioned finance. Had dinner in G.Swamy's.

September 26, 1973 *Bangalore W.C.*

Had breakfast in guest house and the W.C. met in Hegde's house yesterday at 9 a.m. The house is a mansion and very well equipped and furnished. He must have spent at least 5 lakhs of rupees. The point is where he got this money?

After preliminaries about approving the minutes, we took up the political issue and friends had sufficient opportunity to express themselves. During the discussion the question of elections which was partly discussed in U.P. came up. Inspite of my advice Mehta asked for opinion of Kamaraj on Pondicherry election. Kamaraj came out that to beat down DMK and ADMK he would, if necessary, join hands with R. I have always felt and he cares little for what may

happen in the rest of India. He even said that if he cannot have his way he would retire. I could not bear when he said that as DMK and ADMK were corrupt he would not join them as if Indira was not corrupt or he himself had not loudly said it. I said in that case better avoid corruption and stay apart for twenty years and build up instead of this immoral merger or understanding. The matter has been postponed till the next W.C. In the afternoon a resolution was adopted regarding political situation. It is short and crisp. We had dinner in the Congress House, the host being Dr. Alva.

November 11, 1973 *Chitradurga*

Today is the Working Committee meeting in Delhi. This is the first meeting if I remember right that I am not attending, since the split in 1969. Even before that since I became a member of the W.C. in 1948 during the time of Pattabhi Seetharamiah I have rarely missed W.C. meetings. I was not a member of the W.C. only when after Tandon resigned in favour of Nehru, Nehru did not have me in the W.C. for about 2 years. Somehow possibly due to the insidious propaganda carried on against me by the Brahmins of Karnataka, Diwakar, Karmarkar, and to some extent Hardikar and more than all, Mallya. Nehru who would be influenced by flatterers and sychophants did not like me. Nor did I show too much of supersticiousness towards him and in fact did not care to flatter him. He did much to harm me. But did he succeed? I do not know. He knew that I care little for his help or notice.

I wish the W.C. will not miss me today so that I may gradually with draw myself away. Not that I am less eager to serve but that I cannot afford to spend a thousand rupees for attending every meeting of W.C.

December 2, 1973

My arm during nights is giving trouble and the pain yesterday night was so great that I had bad sleep. Possibly because of the injection of hormones I had, yesterday I felt sleepy the whole day and slept for two hours in the morning from 10 to 12 and again from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. Very sound sleep.

I have received letters from Ashok Mehta and Dutt of Calcutta about my reactions to Kamaraj and Indira understanding and to the resolution passed by the W.C. with reference to it. I am not in agreement with the whole affair and I sincerely feel that Kamaraj has betrayed the organisation just with a view to defeat DMK in Tamilnadu, just to satisfy his ego with the least consideration about such unholy agreement with the unreliable and dishonest PM would have on the rest of the country. In the final analysis we have honoured a little man too much. Pity S.K. Patil's weekly "Socialistic Society" carries an article by himself supporting the Kamaraj-Indira get-together both last week and this. Wrote to Morarji about my feelings. I will write to Ashok Mehta and Dutt tomorrow.

February 20, 1974 *Kamaraj*

After getting up at 5 a.m. got ready to go to Lucknow by the Punjab Mail which is scheduled to leave at 7.20 but left at 8 a.m. They had reserved a berth in the air-conditioned coach and I was happy to travel in comfort. Reached Lucknow at 11.40 a.m. and loudly welcomed by some of friends. Remained as guest of C.B. Gupta. He came at about 1 p.m. after visiting his constituency. We had lunch together along with some friends including Radha Krishnan, Journalist Editor from Madras who is supposed to interpret Kamaraj to the U.P. public in the election campaign. After rest went at 5 to Lajpat Rai Bhavan and held a Press

Conference mostly to remove confusion regarding Kamaraj. The R in their desperation are printing and broadcasting pamphlets that Kamaraj has said PM's hand must be strengthened and all co-operation must be given to her for the sake of the country. I told the press that Kamaraj has been permitted for the limited purpose of Pondicherry election to have temporary alliance to defeat DMK only and no question of merger hereafter arises: Radha Krishnan also explained. In the evening there was a public meeting where Guptaji introduced me and went for another meeting after Radha Krishnan explained Kamaraj's attitude in Hindi. I spoke for 1 hour in English and was translated. It was an educated though not a large audience, about 5000. After the Meeting a poster bearing Kamaraj on one side and Indira on the other at top corners and doing Namaskar with Kamaraj's so-called statements printed boldly was shown to me. Whatever the results Kamaraj has let us down, I think purposefully. I had my own doubts about him. Today is "Shivarathri". As usual I did not fast.

February 24, 1974 *Delhi*

Since yesterday night results are coming in hourly. Pondicherry has given a big jolt to Kamaraj and so has Coimbatore. In the latter place we have lost both Lok Sabha and Assembly seats. In Pondicherry out of 16 candidates we got only 5. And out of 14 only 7. DMK has been routed. ADMK and CPI together have secured 19. What Govt. comes it is difficult to say. Kamaraj as expected by his foolish behaviour has gone down himself and brought down Congress (O). Radha Krishnan came and talked to me for an hour from 10.05 to 11.45 and told me that R & D together will form a Government in Pondicherry. Only ADMK and CPI can. Manipur is lost to them as they are trailing far behind.

Sent a telegram congratulating Appanna Patil who has won from Sankeshwar Assembly Seat. In Orissa and UP counting is going on. It looks as though initial success goes to R. It was announced on the AIR that Guptaji has lost. But Tiwari from his house told me it is wrong and is waiting for result. Later on phoned to Guptaji and learnt that second counting is going on at 9.30 and it may be known a little later. But in Orissa and UP, R is leading. But only a dozen results are out. It is said there has been interference with the Ballot Box in UP. I told Guptaji instructions may be issued to put protest in writing in all such places. Phoned to Maharani and Morarji about Guptaji. Let us wait. By tomorrow evening a clear picture may emerge. Wrote to Daya that I return on 10th March.

February 28, 1974 *Fell Down*

It is said that fractures are the result of falls when people are emotionally upset quite often. It has happened before. Today thoroughly depressed by our rout in U.P. and specially defeat of Guptaji even losing his deposit. While walking this morning I slipped and fell down leaning on my left arm. The fingers pained very much. Reached K. Bhavan gave the overcoat for dry cleaning. Phoned to Dr. Shankaran who asked me to come to hospital at 9 a.m. There the hand was x-rayed. Glad that no bones are broken. Doctor, advised to keep the hand in hot water 3 times. Had the usual ultrasonic massage. But could not carry on the wheel exercise standing on one step except for 2 minutes as the hand was too painful. In the afternoon went to Ashok Mehta. He was in a pessimistic mood and saw practically no future for Old Congress as we had continuously 4 debacles, first in Kerala, then the Lok Sabha in 1971, the State Legislatures in 1972 and the present. According to him more people would defect from us. We had also no

definite programmes and have not moved in the country educating the masses. Of course, we are informally discussing these matters and our future tomorrow when we met in his house at 4 p.m. Maharani of Patiala was with him when we discussed. She is very much depressed specially about Guptaji, but Guptaji is brave enough and wants to face the future boldly.

Had phone talks twice with Gupta, who told me that the two Congresses coming together, had a lot to do with our failure and the money. He also said one R.K. Goenka of Calcutta had admitted to him this morning that he had given Rs. 5 crores to Indira for this U.P. election. She must have collected possibly, as rumoured Rs. 25 to 30 crores.

March 1, 1974 *Delhi*

Left hand swollen and painful. Sri Ramanathan Chettiar came for breakfast and had a long chat about Pondicherry, Coimbatore, U.P. and Orissa elections. We were both sorry for Kamaraj. He said that T.T.K. is the villain of the piece and Kamaraj has been misled. Today's newspaper carry the news that Kamaraj had a meeting of both R & O legislaturers of Pondicherry in his house and had a leader selected for the joint party to form a single opposition. It means that without the sanction of the Central Parliamentary Board he has taken the law into his own hands. Evidently he seems to have come to a point where he is at the parting of the ways. This matter came up for discussion at the informal meeting of the members and the invitees of the W.C. It is felt that Kamaraj may be addressed in the matter. General observations were made about the recent elections with special reference to U.P. It was felt that money, caste and Kamaraj's stand were exploited against us by Jan Sangh. B.K.D, CPI and more specially by R to say that the two parties O & R would merge after the elections. It looked as though

Bihar friends S.N. Mishra, Satyendra Narayan were for such a thing as they feel that is the opinion of the Congress. Others are not inclined that way, viz., Banarasidas, Sucheta, B.D. Sharma, Babulal, while Sikhandar Bakht, myself, Morarji were definitely against. Ashok Mehta, Sadiq Bhai, Mohindar Kaur did not express any opinion. It was from 4 to 6.30 that we sat and Mehta was feeling tired. We again met informally in Karnataka Bhavan at 4 P.M. on 6th instant. There is considerable swelling of the left hand and pain, though, I did wheel forming on two steps easily. Raja's letter received.

March 30, 1974 *Chitradurga*

Walk etc., as usual. At home it is a delight to have children specially the young ones, Suman and Sanjay make all of us happy.

In the afternoon Kamaraj phoned to me from Madras and informed that S.K. Patil had phoned to him and possibly written to him, that the 3 of us namely S.K, Kamaraj and myself should meet on 3rd afternoon in Delhi before the Working Committee meets and discuss certain problems. I know he is anxious to have me with him. He seems to feel that we may in a way support Kamaraj in his effort to go nearer Indira and thereby bring about an understanding and even merger of the two Congresses. I am not sure of what exactly he wants. He is an old friend of mine and both of us agree on many points and share little differences. But I am sure I am not with either of them in this matter. I spoke therefore and told Kamaraj that as I am anyhow reaching Delhi on 3rd afternoon we may meet and discuss. He did not mention any details nor his opinion as is usual with him nor did I. In the evening a phone call came from Rajasekharan who informed me that my passage to Delhi was booked on 3rd morning and that 2nd April is Madhav's

birthday and we go to Bangalore for lunch itself. I agreed and informed Prathibha accordingly.

April 5, 1974 *Delhi Working Committee Meeting*

During the walk Manubhai Shah met and wanted the two O & R to come together and then I pointed out the offer must come from the PM as she would certainly exploit the issue if it is from our side. He had the temerity to say what if she does so if you do not lose much and it would be good if you use Kamaraj who has met her already and is likely to be useful. I dismissed him courteously.

The discussion in the Working Committee continued and when my opinion was asked I made it clear that there can be no compromise with evil and R. because of their utter failure to administer properly and corruption is evil. We have to strengthen our party and not be cowed down. The Kamaraj understanding must be reviewed and no understanding, if any, should be continued and the proposed federation of parties or forming new party requires serious thinking and cannot be done now. (I left at 12 noon to go to Dr. Madan Mohan with Tyagi and Nash. Dr. Mohan examined me and said that I may continue the present treatment and the next time I come to Delhi I have to be an in-patient for 3-4 days).

The discussions continued and towards the end at about 7 p.m. Ashok Mehta put a draft into our hands which he said reflected the consensus of opinion and which may form the basis for a resolution to be passed tomorrow.

During these discussions except the Tamilnadu PCC President who is a *Chela* of Kamaraj, the entire body of members of the W.C. invitees both permanent and to this meeting spoke against Pondicherry- Tamilnadu understanding and Kamaraj was made to realise that what

he has done after the assembly elections in Pondicherry was not correct. He also felt the blow of this consensus. One thing upset, when Kamaraj was asked if he would oppose PM outside and he promptly said "No". That went against him.

June 10, 1974 *Delhi*

After the usual things and a bath, did not feel the usual freshness. Ashok Mehta and Hegde came for breakfast and we had some desultory talk about our organisation. Went to the AICC office and the discussions continued and long speeches were made both in the morning and the afternoon. Quite a few wanted and urged including Banarasidas, Hegde, S.N. Mishra. Satyendra Narayan, advocate Sharma that the flag and the name be changed and atleast the bracketed (O) be removed and S.N. Mishra wanted (D) denoting Democracy be used to replace O. Gurjarmal and others including me were against it, though I said I would most unwillingly consent to have (D) replace (O). Gujarat P.C.C. Secretary young man made a good speech which I immensely liked. He wanted Gandhian socialism to be supported and built up. He was not for changing the name and flag. Finally we had a summary of the discussion of two days by pinpointing the items. We dispersed. I think this has been a good discussion and certain aspects were brought out. But I have a feeling that we are concerned more with election and its result and hopes rather than building up our economy and elevate the economic standards of the people. While the immediate necessity of carrying on agitation on some of the pressing problems like corruption, rising prices, inflation, etc., we have to have a long term plan based on Gandhian lines for more production and better employment, etc. I made out these points which they, I felt, appreciated. I am not sure they were accepted.

July 3, 1974 *Chitradurga*

Yesterday's papers and Radio were loud in proclaiming that Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad is the choice of the R. Party, i.e., of the PM. Others do not count for the Presidentship of India. What a choice? Poor Girl? He may be disappointed; though there is little to choose between the two. Both are loyal *Johukum Wallas* of the PM. But it is in the atmosphere. Possibly he is their last choice: Nothing can be done. Of course his election is foregone.

August 24, 1974.

Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad has become the 5th President of India. I have to say again what a fall from standards! S.K. Patil in his last letter has mentioned Jatti being set up as Vice President. He has ridiculed the fellow as Mickey Mouse. True he is like that. But has pleased the powers that be by the way he behaved in presenting the opposite party in Orissa getting into Govt. It is true the High Court of Orissa passed strictures against him. But what of it That is possibly a certificate entitling him for Vice Presidentship. Of course Ahmad has made the usual platitudinous statement and the appeal to the people in the usual terms. What surprises me is that newspapers practically without exception extoll the man and give him high praise and endowed him with moral attributes which he does not possess. Possibly we have still to develop democratic character or that is usual, we have been all through fawning before power and authority and cannot get out of it soon.

September 30, 1974 *Delhi*

At 11 a.m. Rajnarayan and Piloo Mody came and had long talk with me for an hour. Unlike Biju they have not much against them personally. They said that if myself, Veerendra Patil and Hegde made up our minds Karnataka would have

no difficulty. On Gujarat Chimanbhai Patel would join and likely Satyendra N. Singh and Shyam Nandan Mishra would also join. I have my doubts. I said I should know the mind of workers and that of our leaders before we can make our minds to leave an organisation which we have served for 40 years. I then went to Morarji and discussed many problems. As usual he has his opinion about himself. About Chimanbhai, he (CCP) said he had seen him yesterday and had agreed to express regret and ultimately join us. This is at variance with what Mody and Narayan said. I phoned to Gujarat Bhavan and was told that Chimanbhai left Delhi this morning. One thing is clear. Both Hegde and V. Patel have been letting B.L.D. leaders know that they are willing to join B.L.D. but that I am standing in the way and that I must give the green signal. I do not know to what extent they are sincere. They are more particular of elections rather than organisation or very little agitation or fights. They would rather avoid them.

November 5, 1974 *Delhi, Working Committee Meeting*

The papers are full of Patna and of Delhi of yesterday. Pictures have appeared as Jai Prakash Narayan having been beaten by lathis. The Radio while yesterday in one broadcast admitted his sustaining injury and being attended by 5 Govt. doctors has begun to play it down and practically denying it. Can we not do something to silence this AIR everywhere? Even in Delhi where most shops were closed and few open and only empty buses were running they announced everything was normal. J.P. has been beaten and sustained injuries and has been treated by doctors and a rib is fractured. He has called for *Bandh* today. I think it will be successful.

We met in the Working Committee from 11 to 1 and 4 to 8. Mysore's Patil, Hegde, G.P. Swamy, Kerala, Tamil Nadu's

P.C.C. Presidents, Delhi, Maharashtra (S.K.), U.P. (Sucheta), Bengal, Orissa (Old friends Pavitra Mohan Pradhan), Haryana (Sharma) and others including Morarji expressed themselves. Veerendra Patil only referred to elections and described to himself all the success. Members are beginning to feel he is presumptuous. He expressed that only he is capable of collections. I spoke finally and said that we must carry on a relentless campaign for the removal of Govt. and collection of money will come and we should not unduly depend upon elections. This did not please our Patil and he wanted AICC to help with money and was snubbed by Mehta, Desai and myself.

November 16, 1974

The President of India has passed an order-very extraordinary that smugglers detained under MISA cannot seek relief in any Court. It means the Fundamental Right of a citizen has been taken away. It can only mean, as the order applies only to smugglers, that Govt. can declare a citizen a smuggler and keep him under lock and key though for a specific period and further Govt. specially the PM is afraid that if the matter goes to Court dirty linen e.g. collection of funds for the party and personally by her and other ministers may have to be washed. This is dirty work and democracy cannot tolerate this sort of nonsense. The march in Patna today by the R. Party with Barooah, the President , Jagjivan Ram, N. Mishra (all dishonest) Ghaffoor, Sitharam etc., so much advertised by the act and much about a week back by CPI and in Ranchi by Barooah are all indications that Govt. is really upset and afraid. Lakhs must have been spent.

January 2, 1975 *Chalisgaon W.C.*

The Circuit House is not quite uptodate. But it is sufficient. Luckily there is a western type commode. Only it is to be

washed or flushed manually. Does it matter. Gupta, Ashok Mehta, Bakht, Patil are with me in the Circuit House, we had lunch and dinner together.

The W.C. met at 11 a.m. and the whole of the morning was taken with the poll which some expect like me and some do not expect like Mehta, Morarji Bhai. The question naturally came up of merger and alliance. Shamanandan Mishra, the leader of our party in Lok Sabha, took a lot of time in pleading for some understanding with B.L.D. and as a liaison man seems to have committed himself to Charan Singh being Chief Federal opposition party etc., that did not find favour after the full day's meeting. The subject being important was continued in the afternoon from 4 to 7. We adopted the draft resolution with two additions in the light of the discussions giving sufficient latitude for the States with in the framework of the stand we have taken. Ramachandran told us that it is likely we will have to go it alone, in view of latest developments in Tamilnadu. We adopted another resolution on economic situation. They had arranged for a public meeting. Patil and Morarji spoke, gathering about 25,000. Got a telegram from Vivek of success in Barak election.

January 3, 1975 — *L.N. Mishra, Railway Minister, Killed by Bomb in Bihar*

The W.C. after adopting two resolutions and the unusual condolence resolution making special reference to Sucheta Kripalani, Mrudula Sarabhai and Shankar Rao Deo, was discussing and just before that we heard that L.N. Mishra, the Railway Minister, a norotiously corrupt man and collector of funds for Indira and who had become a liability on account of the licence scandal and others, was killed by a bomb thrown at him in a Railway Junction while inaugurating a railway line. He was along with others

injured and while in a Railway Hospital died in the early hours of the morning today. We expressed sympathy and condoled the death while at the same time condemned the cowardly outrage. People's reaction is that his unpopularity and the desirability of his removal from ministership and his unwillingness to resign might have induced Indira to remove him this way. Her credibility has sunk too low. It may not be true.

As we had no work, myself, Sikandar Bakht. Manubhai and Mrs. Patel and another lady took a car, went to Ellora Caves 37 miles from here and saw the great caves and magnificent ancient carvings in stone more than 1000 years old, first Buddhist, then Shaivite and lastly Jain. We only spent two hours 4.30 to 6.30, visited the Mahadev temple built by Ahalya Bai and reached back Chalisgaon at 8 p.m. Avoided addressing a public meeting being too tired, going up and down the caves.

January 4, 1975 *Chalisgaon AICC*

The AICC met at 10 a.m. after the flag hoisting ceremony and after the preliminaries, the main resolution on political situation was moved by Morarji Bhai and seconded by Patil. It was passed at 6.30 p.m. in the afternoon sitting. The second resolution on economic situation was moved by Hitendra Desai and seconded by Satyendra Narayan Sinha. It is to be continued tomorrow morning at 9.00 Had dinner in a merchant Agarwal's house and lunch in a Gujarati farmer's house. Dr. Sushila Nair was elected to W.C. by a resolution moved by Gupta and adopted by AICC. She is supremely happy. I had discussion with Bhima Reddy, Subas Reddy and Krisht Narayan Reddy regarding Andhra and then Ramachandran.

January 5, 1975 *Chalisgaon AICC*

Had breakfast with Dr. Purna Patva along with all Working

Committee friends and others. He has a lioness with which he is free. We all went near it, touched it and got photos. It is fully grown. The AICC passed 2nd resolution on economic situation on which I spoke briefly, rather too briefly. Dr. Susheela Nair's resolution was also passed. Had lunch with a Gujarati merchant. Large number of Lingayats came and met me in the afternoon and evening. They want somebody to be sent for religious education. At 9 a.m. Mehta left for Delhi and myself, Gupta, Morarji Bhai left at 11.30 p.m. by the Howrah-Bombay Express. They did not supply me bed as requested. Chain was pulled twice and train stopped. Got bedding.

January 18, 1977 *Delhi*

We met in W.C. at 10.30 a.m. and the main topic of discussion was the question of the formation of a single party after Ashok Mehta had made a brief reference to the various discussions talks he had with the leaders of the 3 other parties. As before West Bengal was for continuing the identity of the Congress (O) and very emphatic. Dr. Chander as usual agreed separate existence. Ramachandran repeated and referred to his own difficulties. He seems to be proud of his achievements in improving the strength of the party and very conscious of it. Gujarat very reasonably put their case. Banarsidas, Satyendra Narayan Sinha, S. N. Mishra recently released, Bhagawat Dayal Sharma spoke in dubious terms and looked to me and very subjective in their approach. Others usually supported on party formation immediately. Myself, C.B. Gupta, Assam Barova, Kerala V.P. of the PCC. V.P.'s Rana Murthy, Verendra Patil, Shanti Bhusan, Dr. Sushila in her own way, Sikandar Bakht, Niaz Hussain in his own way were for one party. Deve Gowda and Bommai attended and are going to speak tomorrow. Discussions are

continuing. This morning I began with Ashok Mehta's request for the discussion with a strong plea for one party.

January 19, 1977

News is splashed in big headlines that the present Lok Sabha will be dissolved and that fresh elections will be held in March. Along with it there is the news that Morarji Bhai and Advani are also released. The PM has said that Emergency would be relaxed which means it will continue. I am not sure it would be wise and desirable on the part of opposition parties to participate. We have to work for at least a week for clarification and reactions. Sent a telegram to Morarji welcoming him back for responsibilities.

As expected our friends S.N. Mishra, Banarsidas and S.N. Sinha are trying to be funny. One cannot understand their motives. Sinha unlike his father is cantankerous and selfish. It convinces me in self interest he may fly to Indira. The other two possibly to increase their importance.

February 2, 1977 *Jagjivan Ram Resigns*

Radio news at 2 p.m. announced that Jagjivan Ram, Central Minister the senior most minister had resigned from the Congress and from the Central Cabinet and, wishes to contest as an independent. Along with him 5 more important members including Smt. Satpathi, Ex. CM of Orissa, Bahuguna, CM of U.P., have resigned from the Congress. This is a big blow to Indira's party and to her personally. We may expect further developments. Ashok Mehta has written to me that Hegde gave him to understand that Rajasekharan had no chance in the elections. So the clique has been operating.

Sent a statement welcoming Ram's resignation and congratulating him and others.

February 6, 1977

Papers are full of defections from Congress to jagjivan Ram's new party "Congress for Democracy" and from other parties and independents to Congress party. J. Ram has stated that he will see to it that he will not allow triangular contests. It means he will adjust and possibly join our party if things are favourable. A big manipulator. He has always been that.

February 11, 1977

Left Chitradurga in fiat car of Vivek's brother with Paramesh, Sannappa driving. We left at 8.45 and reached at 11.40 Kiran's house, was informed by Parvathi that President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, who returned only yesterday from Malaysian tour cancelling the rest of it due to ill health, died of heart failure in Delhi at 8.52 a.m. An unexpected death. Possibly a set back to Indira. This small man Jatti is sworn in as Acting President.

February 17, 1977

Papers are full of our activities in all the States. But the only difficulty and handicap is, added to the paucity of time, serious paucity of resources. We seem to have good workers specially from the erstwhile Jan Sangh in fairly large numbers in most States. But that is not enough. It is extremely difficult to get contributions and rich people are afraid to help us. They have become timid and cowardly. Our hope is that they may help us on the sly. Even there the psychology of fear seems to be operating. Indira disease.

The lady has again begun her game of threat. She has said that even the present relaxation of emergency has revived anti- national activities. Possibly she may even remove these relaxations. It may not happen; but who knows a woman's whim.

February 25, 1977

Attended to correspondence in the morning. S.K. has written that he is not contesting and will do his best for success of the party. He is not quite optimistic about Morarji, Jagjivan Ram, Charan Singh combination.

March 18, 1977

Reports are received that Janata Party is gaining ground and it is possible that we may have a working majority. But it is difficult to say anything definitely as there may be surprises. There may, I am afraid, be rigging by Govt. of ballot boxes and as I am sure happened in last elections in 1971 for Loka Sabha. Anyhow it is the most important election considering that democracy has been at a standstill and dictatorship of Indira Gandhi has been very much in evidence, specially after the declaration of emergency 20 months ago. I can devoutly wish that her rule will end and India shall have democracy restored.

For myself I have practically made up my mind to stay away from active politics. But if Indira Govt. comes in again I am not to sit idle but should do everything for restoring democracy. I am sure whatever happens there will be one strong opposition party.

March 21, 1977

Was so happy to learn that both Indira Gandhi and son have lost in the election by 55,000 and 75,000 votes. I was not allowed to sleep as people went on phoning and coming to my house to tell me the glad news which was flashed at 3 p.m. The rest of her future has cast a gloom on Congress elements every where and they are subdued and silenced. As every hour the results are announced it was evident that the South both including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and

Andhra Pradesh have supported Congress whole- heartedly except 6 to 9 seats out of 110. But the North has come out definitely against Indira. The Congress got so far none in Madhya Pradesh, U.P., Bihar and only one in Rajasthan and half in Maharashtra. It is quite certain with about 220 results still to come the Janata will get more than the required number to form the Govt. So far out of 327, we get 170 and Congress 127, others about 30 both friends and foes.

March 30, 1977

Quite a number of capitalists big and small are coming to me expressing their pleasure and satisfaction that the new Govt. has come in. I do not know how far they are genuine. They came to me flattering me and asking me to be in Delhi to advise the PM as I am an old man in politics and respected etc. Possibly they want to make use of me. Went to the Speaker's gallery and sat for 15 minutes. Same old things, went to the Central Hall, the old place where friends meet. Surrounded by journalists and a few old friends, spent time from 3 to 4.30. Gujral, our Ambassador in Russia, wanted me in particular to visit Russia and see things for myself though he knew I am not an admirer of Russia and Communism. But I do not know how I can go. Journalists want to meet me at a Press Conference tomorrow at 4 p.m. in the party office. I have agreed.

One thing about the capitalist friends. Almost all of them urge that I must have Veerendra Patil put in the Cabinet. What does it mean? He is their man and they can get things done through him. Not a compliment to him.

March 31, 1977

Rather a busy day. About a dozen friends from Bihar, U.P., Delhi, etc., had come for breakfast. Went to Dada Kripalani and had half an hour talk with him. He was busy writing in

spite of short sight. He told me that we must not, whatever our feelings, rub Russia on the wrong side and in view of their importance must keep them on friendly terms. He was unhappy about some ministers regarding the want of integrity. It looked as though he was not happy at the way in which PM has not cared to see him. I spoke to PM about both Russia and this evening when I met him in the W.C. He agreed but said he had no time to see him. Lunched with R.P. Goenka of Calcutta as he had spent some time with me yesterday and invited me. Before that as Rajasekharan had fixed the time went to Indira Gandhi, Ex. PM and had a courtesy call. After usual exchange I advised her to build a strong united well -informed opposition party. I wished her well and left. Met Jagjivan Ram and told him to have merger of his CFD with Janata without delay. He agreed . Met PM and told him about Kripalani and Ram meetings. The W.C. met from 8.30 to 10 p.m. Had Constitution amended. Tempers were frayed and hot exchanges. Retired at 11 p.m. Ramakrishna Hegde is still here. Why?

May 6, 1977

Friends who had gone in the Janata special train from Karnataka returned yesterday evening. A few of them met me and told me the activities of the "Gang of Four" in Delhi. They it seems are in Bombay now and are frustrated.

The Judgement of the Supreme Court which upheld the dissolution of a State Assembly has been fully reported today, though the unanimous decision was pronounced 3-4 days back. Jatti has come in for adverse criticism by one Judge and defended by C.J. Beg. Brahmanand Reddy has been elected by a big majority as Congress President. It shows still Indira is powerful but he is not a fit man. Possibly the reasons for his election is Indira support. Raghuramaiah,

Ex-Minister, another such fellow, has resigned from Congress and Vengal Rao for CMship.

May 25, 1977 *Golden Jubilee of Marriage*

A GREAT day in a way. All the children except Puri and all the grandsons except 5 out of 20 and sons-in-law but 2 had gathered. Since 3 days prayers are being offered by a Jangam and worships going on both for me and my wife but also for my brother-in-law Murigappa and his wife whom we have invited as our marriages were celebrated on 25.5.1927 fifty years ago. At wife's desire I had to sit for Puja today and yesterday much to my discomfort. Pratically we married again with some formalities repeated. Then we all the four were seated in the hall and Arati was done by about 25-30 ladies and their husbands and some presents made to us. We had lunch with 2 sweets etc., which all enjoyed. There were about 200 guests only close relatives. It was really a happy day and both of us enjoyed it immensely. All the wons are also present. The house was decorated with green buntings of mango leaves, banana plants, etc. Practically no rest. We have a silk sari to each of the 5 daughters and to Parvathi daughter-in-law. It costs us about Rs. 2000/- . This is the first time I issued a postdated cheque for Rs.2000/- as I had no bank balance. I have to wait for interest to grow. I enjoyed the Golden Jubilee of our marriage immensely and so was wife and all who attended, specially my children.

June 12, 1977

Election fever continues. It is good that our Govt. has allowed equal opportunity for all parties to have their say, both in the Radio and in the Press and leaders are given time on both to carry on their respective propaganda. This is democracy. I am happy. I know that Congress has absolutely no chance this time. They may get a few seats

here and there and no seats in one or two or three States. They deserve it. Feeling the strain of finance I cannot immediately purchase some vitamin pills, etc. But on any account I do not want to borrow even from the bank. I have never been a debtor and do not want to be. So many people came and put the idea of Presidentship into my head. I also think of it but threw it out of my thoughts quickly.

June 16, 1977

Got a telegram from Ramakrishna Hegde that the President requests me to go to Tamilnadu and Pondicherry as observer of the party meetings on the 19th. I was not willing to go but seeing that I have already acted as observer at the time of selections of candidates I have to agree.

It is good that Janata has succeeded as expected in fact more than I expected in North India in all the State, assembly elections except in West Bengal as expected. It is evident that CPM is going to win and form a govt. though full results have yet to come. In the South we have failed more than I expected. ADMK the party without any policy, any programme and any ideals has got thumping majority and only depending on the personality of one and only individual and that a cinema actor and again without any political background. This is not compliment for Tamilnadu. But it is very significant that Congress has miserably failed every where.

June 28, 1977 *Delhi*

Quite a few people came to see me. Bihar's Satyendra Narayan Singh who was defeated in the leadership election against Karpuri Thakur was very bitter. He repeated what Jagjivan Ram had told me in Calcutta that Jan Sangh and BLD had joined together and have been ousting Congress (O), Socialists and CFD and finally will oust BLD and Jan

Sangh and will rule the country. This seems to have happened in UP and other places. But it must be admitted that Jan Sangh are efficient, hardworking and selfless workers. It is undesirable from any point of view that we should continue this unhealthy and suicidal attitude. Though in the beginning these may be there for some time it looks as though the sin is too pronounced. Digvijay Singh also repeated. Went to see President Chandrasekhar who was in great physical pain due to a displaced disc and pain in the vertebral column. He was more concerned in getting me coffee and in great pain. I came away. I wanted to report to him about Tamilnadu and Pondicherry. I had this morning for breakfast some old friends plus Dr. Chopra of Indian Gazetteers. He wants me to go to his house for dinner tomorrow. I do not know why he is so fond of me and respectful. Dr. Latka also came and G. Swamy and Rajeswar in the evening.

July 6, 1977

It is good that attempts are being made to have a President elected on consensus. It is ridiculous that some Congress member has suggested Maragatham Chandrasekhar's name. The lady has been a servile and objectionable follower of Indira Gandhi. Woman seem to be unpopular. Rukmini Arundale's name was prominently mentioned a week before. Even Vijayalakshmi Pandit's name also. People are not in a mood to consider any lady with Nehru's name. Quite a few who came to me were against any woman being President. Indira Gandhi has done the feminine world a distinct disservice, to my mind.

July 8. 1977

Sanjeeva Reddy is naturally very happy and it is good that he is being congratulated. He had a raw deal at the hands of Indira Gandhi in 1969 due to her most atrocious

behaviour, indiscipline, falsehood, corruption, disloyality, etc., etc.

What is her future. She is a dare-devil with her vast money resources. She may try to come back. But seems to be a far cry. Nobody has shed a tear for her. I am not sure even if Sanjay has done so. She does not deserve it either.

October 3, 1977

It is good news broadcast this evening that Indira Gandhi has been arrested for corruption along with her cabinet colleagues, K.D. Malaviya, Gokhale, Chattopadhyaya, Sethi and others including Yashpal Kapoor, industrialists R. P. Goenka, Arunachalam and officers. She has as usual the cheap thing to say that her arrest is to prevent her going to the people. A damned lie, the lie she has been indulging usually as if she only has the interest of the people at heart and others have not. It will bring about her arrest, considerable and definite satisfaction among the people who have suffered so much misery were eagerly expecting it.

January 30, 1978

Today is another turning point in my life. This morning and yesterday I found who have been set up as Janata candidates for Assembly, and that a large number of them are defectors after Lok Sabha elections and even a few days back. Inspite of my protests, entreaties and warning against defectors, they have been welcomed with assurances and given seats and the central leadership have accepted these defectors. Some of them are absolutely corrupt and from men of straw have become affluent beyond their own dreams. This selection of large number of defectors in every district has distressed me and after thinking over the matters deeply and seriously, I cannot remain in the Janata Party and work for both defectors and non-defectors. I, therefore,

wrote a fairly long letter to President Chandrashekhar and resigned from the party. My future? Let me be honest.

February 23, 1978 — *Chandrashekhar's Visit*

A day to remember. This morning Chandrashekhar, President of Janata came to my house and appealed to me to withdraw my resignation from the party. I was most unwilling. But the earnestness of his appeal and the expectant look in the face of several of our workers of my district made me change my mind and I agreed. Chandrashekhar went happy. He had brought Samachar's representative with him. I had to say to him that I had resigned or withdrawn my resignation and joy on the face of our workers and subsequent telegrams-quite a few in number brought down my unhappiness. I refused to address a meeting this evening in Chitradurga. This is the last day for meetings and before 5 p.m. I felt I could not do it so soon after my withdrawal and could not adjust myself. The whole day was a day of mixed feelings. Wife also thought, she did not say anything. I could feel, was not unhappy though it surprised Gowri and grand-children. By evening, was feeling more peaceful. I am not quite sure if I am right in taking this step.

February 28, 1978

Urs has taken the oath and has become Chief Minister again inspite of his name being in the mud, known for corruption. But the common man is ignorant of these things and the Harijans and Muslims have been mainly responsible for his success. He has managed to keep them satisfied. The Muslims have tried to maintain their individuality. We have been on the other hand solicitous about them possibly to get their votes. Similarly about Harijans:

Scores of people have been coming to me to complain about

the perfidy of the Janata caucus. It seems in a meeting of the newly elected members of Janata a number of young people had collected outside the Janata office and crying out that Deve Gowda should step down. The whole afternoon I was busy with people including some elected members discussing the picture of the party.

March 3, 1978 *New Delhi*

Dharam Yash Dev and Nath came for breakfast. The former had a lot to say about how the ordinary people are getting disappointed and disillustioned about Janata Govt. and that Indira may get more popularity and get popular sympathy. Went to Janata office at 10.30 with Kerala friends to see Chandrashekhar. He was not available and possibly avoided seeing us. But Hegde saw us and I gave a bit of my mind to him and told him how badly they have behaved. Maharani of Patiala came to see me and we went to her estate-Rose Garden and had lunch. Ashok Mehta also was present. After rest went to see Vajpayee and briefly discussed China, Russia and related international problems, the Muslim problem at 5.30 pm. At 5.45 met Jagjivan Ram when Bahuguna and Karpuri Thakur were present. They were very courteous. Vajpayee, Ram and Bahuguna were bitter against Charan Singh. It is a pity. At 6.15 p.m. met Mohan Dharia. He is anxious that unless there is unity of mind and heart among the 3 viz. PM, Charan and J. Ram, it is difficult for Janata to get on, I agree. Then went to Biju Patnaik's house. He was not there and spent an interesting hour with his wife. A busy day. Labour Minister Ravinder Varma is to see me tomorrow.

March 4, 1978 *New Delhi*

As agreed had breakfast with Speaker K.S. Hegde to which were invited, Sunder Ram Shetty and Bala Krishna Shetty. Interesting discussion. Went to Gandhi Peace Foundation

Building, Deen Dayal Marg, and attended the meeting as scheduled of living Constituent Assembly members. About 15 or 16 attended, Baldev Swarup is mainly responsible for this meeting. Diwakar, Himmat Sinha, Mukut Beharilal, H.L. Dwivedi, Ramnath Goenka, Nagendra Singh, Ram Sahai, myself and a few others. I took a prominent part in suggesting what to do. We decided to form an Association "Dreams and Realities." Diwakar somehow managed to sneak into Presidentship. An Executive Committee was formed. We had to meet again on 19th of this month. Had lunch there only by R. Goenka. Met Biju Patnaik regarding an Extrusion Plant as Anjana Reddy has come with me all the way. Met Charan Singh for half an hour at 4 p.m. He is still bitter against J. Ram and Bahuguna are unhappy about PM and Chandrashekhar. A man with no vision, cramped but purposeful. I had to tell him about some truth in delay of commission and mishandings of presentation. While I was there Veerendra Patil and Co. were waiting to see him. R.Verma came and spent an hour with me discussing matters relating to organisation, Govt., etc., Received an invitation to lunch tomorrow with President Sanjeeva Reddy at 1 p.m.

April 7, 1978 *Chitradurga*

I am writing a long letter to Chandrashekhar, Janata President giving out my feelings and opinions about the party, its failures and shortcomings and how it can build itself by bettering the organisational set-up and by Government undertaking active steps to bring about punishment of the corrupt members, officials and publicmen. I want to be quite critical of the party's behaviour in selecting candidates and in encouraging defectors and dishonest men. I have to send copies of the letter to Prime Minister, Charan Singh, Jagjivan Ram and Vajpayee. I want to have their reactions to my views. I do not expect much from Chandrashekhar

as he is just not enough to lead, build up and guide a great organisation. He has no experience nor seems to have the ability. He still seems to feel a socialist party man from what I hear.

Late at 10 p.m. Raja came from Bangalore and told me that the Chief Minister has given an interview and assured early consideration. He brought with him Sanjay who is happy to be here with us and sister Suman, already here.

April 22, 1978

New Delhi. Charan Singh, Dr. and Mrs. Chopra Lunch-Kamala Devi Baldev Swarup

Went to Charan Singh's house early at 7.30 a.m. and had more than half an hour's talk. His complaints continue but I did most of the talking and I found this time he was presumptuous. He is daggers drawn against J. Ram and in a lower key against PM. He thinks Morarji is shielding his son Kanti. Posssibly it is true. Dr. and Mrs. Chopra came for breakfast, they are unhappy over present situation. Dr. Nagapa Alva came and spent an hour explaining his son's scandalous marriage with Nandini. He is evidently fond of his son Shivaram and seems to be fond of his son and daughter-in-law. A gullible and fond parent. I did not tell him so. Had lunch with Kamala Devi in International Centre. In the evening learning Baldev Swarup was in Safdurjang Hospital had R.N Goenka to come here and went with him to the hospital and visited Baldev. Though weak and down the old man only questioned about the Dr. and regarding Association of Ex-Congress Association members. Tummy is rather not quite well and so had only a glass of Lassi in the evening went to Jagjivan Ram and spent half an hour. He is the shrewdest and most diplomatic minister though not an admirable character. Discussed political situation.

May 14,1978 *Chitradurga*

Since two months there is lot of press publicity about the Janata leadership in Delhi. The whole thing looks silly since as amongst the 3 top people Morarji, Jagjivan and Charan Singh, there is little difference as far as I have seen re. policies and principles and programmes for the people. The whole thing hinges on personal differences specially between Ram and Singh both of whom wanted, very madly, to be PMs. Morarji deserved and Kripalani and J.P. have decided correctly that he should be PM.

The one is one whose honesty is seriously questioned alongwith his chela Bahuguna. The other Singh is highly communal, ambitious and cantankerous. The best thing would be for both of them to get out. But the old party affiliations continue and the common run of the legislators is too low and self-centred.

June 24, 1978 *Delhi-Bangalore*

As none of Jagjivan, Fernandes, Vajapyee and others were available being very busy about the latest developments, I did not try to meet any of them but spent a quiet morning. But Ram Kishen, Ex-Chief Minister of Punjab spent an hour with me discussing about Janata and how it has failed to satisfy the large expectations of the common man. He has become a farmer near Delhi. One of the most honest and sincere CMs I have known. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh came and had another hour and is unhappy both with Janata and Indira rule. He finds no difference and is certainly not happy. Who is happy in India? Possibly Indira and her stooges and bootlickers because of the developments in Janata Party which wishfully she thinks will break up and she may get into power for which she passionately yearns. God forbid. My feeling is if this Govt. breaks up for any reasons there

will be chaos and possibly civil war. I have warned Morarji and others of this.

Left Delhi airport at 4 p.m. and reached Bangalore at 7 p.m. Nath as usual was useful to arrange flight; meeting etc. Met Sunder Ram Shetty, Varadan, his wife, Komala and their son at lunch. Had Dr. and Mrs. Chopra for breakfast. They had much to say.

July 4, 1978 *Chitradurga*

I am not happy over developments. As I expected Haryana Janata Party is steaming up. This is bad. Devilal also is a rough and ready sort of fellow and may create trouble. This night radio announced that Devilal has been asked to step down from his Chief Ministership as he has refused to withdraw remarks and has refused to keep away from the rally in favour of Charan Singh. This rally is very wrong and Charan Singh ought not to counternance it. I am afraid from what everybody knows about him he may as well have inspired and encouraged it. Trying time for every body and for the party. I only wish that the common good sense of members in the party consideration will prevail than narrow over-selfish loyalties and interests. It is they that can save the party and the country. Leaders seem incapable. Bihar Chief Minister wants Kripalani and J.P. to interfere and arbitrate. Does not seem a feasible proposition as both should have been disgusted with the attitude of leaders on both sides.

September 15, 1978 *Delhi- Morarji Bhai 7.00 a.m.*

Many of the Ministers that I wanted to see were outside Delhi and I did not want to see others. I did not want to discuss the political situation with them, as I know it is useless and serves no purpose. The situation should correct

itself. Went to see Morarji at 7 a.m. and spent about half an hour. I spoke to him about Chairmanship of Vijaya and Federal Banks. He said regarding Sunder Ram Shetty of Vijaya Bank he was old. When I told him Inderjeet Singh of Punjab and Sind Bank having his term extended to 68 years he felt non-plussed and said he did not know. I could feel somebody possibly his son might have prejudiced him. Kanti is capable of doing it and the father is not capable of ignoring the son's opinion. This is what I am told. Morarji was unsympathetic about poor and marginal farmers getting undelayed loans without too much technicalities. He reacted sharply. The same with regard to village health and latrines. He pleaded where can I get money? I asked him where do you get money for fertilizers and he said they give profits. I told him these give better profit in health, culture, etc., and so on. I was not happy about his reactions. He speaks Gandhianism.

November 8, 1978 *Indira Gandhi Wins*

As expected by the partial counting yesterday night the morning papers and the radio announced that Indira Gandhi is leading by nearly 70,000 votes. It was clear that she has won. Strange that she should, considering the amount of work done for our candidate. Evidently money and corruption had their day. By one 0'clock it was learnt that she had won by more than 77 thousands votes, Veerendra Patil getting only 1,72,000 votes. This is bad. Surely Harijans, Muslims and large number of Kurubas have not voted for us. Very disappointing. Proves that our organisation has done little to contact the common voter.

Issued a press statement that Indira's success is due mainly to money and corruption and it does not affect any party, anybody in anyway.

November 29, 1978 *Chitradurga*

Yesterday's news in the morning was not bad. re. Samasthipur results, though yesterday evening Tarakeshwari was leading by a few hundred votes. By evening it became certain Janata Candidate has won. But the margin is small, about 20,000 votes only. Though the result is welcome, most welcome and necessary it is a sufficient warning that Janata has lost much ground. One of the reasons seems to be, apart from the general failure of Janata Governments to satisfy people's expectations, the recent silly order of Karpuri Thakur's Government reserving appointments for backwards, Harijans, etc. It is high time that backwardness is decided on purely economic basis and not on caste or community. I think of writing to Morarji and Chandrasekhar about my feelings, whether they accept them or not.

Papers are naturally full of Janata success and there are statements galore.

December 4, 1978

Morarji and Charan Singh have met in Morarji's office. It is not disclosed what they talked. But Charan Singh is supposed or expected to issue a statement today or tomorrow. How these old fellows think of their egoism that they are important than the party. Would they have thought so if they had not been ministers? It is time that they go out of office and allow others, younger and more idealistic to replace them.

Morarji says in the party meeting that Indira deserves severe punishment at the hands of Parliament and that the present Parliament, Lok Sabha has the right to punish her for her lapses committed against the house as PM of the previous Parliament. It is interesting to see what punishment is going to be given to her by the Lok Sabha. Imprisonment?

December 24, 1978 *Bangalore*

Yesterday's Kisan Show was really a big affair with atleast more than 5 lakhs of people participating and crying "Charan Singhji Ki Jai" and a purse of 77 lakhs of rupees presented. But the whole thing smacks of a made up affair the same that were and are being arranged for and on behalf of Indira Gandhi specially during her dictatorial rule. It is evident that it is meant purely to boost up the individuality of Charan Singh, he may or may not be particularly a party to it. If this continues to be an important aspect of Indian politics, woe to democracy. Even in this made up show it is the rich farmer that is the main support. The poorer is nowhere in the picture. Niether have the Janata Govt. done anything for him, the basic thing being employment. Sympathy for the poor. Where is it?

Veerendra Patil came this morning to enquire of my health as he had learnt that my eye had some trouble. Kind of him, learnt that 1st January has been fixed for my "birthday" meeting.

December 29, 1978 *Delhi*

Went to Shanti Bhushan at 11.30 a.m. Before that Agarwal came and had breakfast with me. Same story Gurupadaswamy came and said that Socialists and others are demanding that all Congress (O) ministers should be sent out and Morarji must take in Chandrasekhar, R.K. Hegde and others as ministers. He wants I should speak to PM against such a step. I told him such a thing won't work with PM. Shanti Bhushan after a slight ear trouble is quite O.K. and he was very cheerful, happy, introuduced his wife, sister-in-law and mother. Spent quite sometime. Though unhappy about the present situation in Delhi he is optimistic. He is not happy over the decision against Indira as he feels it is a bad precedent as in future any party in

tower may treat anybody in opposition in a similar manner. I am inclined to agree? He wished at least of the Par. Committee should have been unanimous. I felt it is a point for consideration though I told yesterday to PM that I was happy the lady was expelled and sent to jail. The National Executive of the Janata Party was attended by Charan Singh and all his henchmen. It seems it has considered Ashok Mehta's Panchayat Report and Economic Programmes. To meet again it seems on 15, 16 and 17th next month. As invited went to President Reddy for Dinner at 8 p.m.

November 30, 1980

Wife wants to celebrate my 79th birthday on the 10th of December. She is particular to invite her children, grandchildren and close relatives. She got Raja to write to all of them at Bangalore and Hubli. I told her to observe in a simple manner and not to be lavish. She agreed. She is particular to have her grandson Vinay and wants to have one item of sweets that the fellow is fond of . She has a number of grandchildren through her daughters 20, in all, but the 21st through her son is her pet and darling because she thinks she will carry on the line of her husband being the only male descendant. Very funny as if it matters much.

I have become lazy on that, while I read a lot and attend regularly and punctually to correspondence. I cannot write for long any articles or long statement and get tired and leave it half finished and not inclined, to finish off. I have to seriously take up my autobiography and my book on the country's economic build up and political and social progress.

In the evening Justice Chandrasekhar, Chief Judge of Karnataka High Court sent word that he would be visiting me. He came within 10 minutes with his wife and spent about 10 minutes with me just to say hello. He was on his

way from Kudligi in Bellary district after opening a Court building back to Bangalore. He calls on me some times when I am in Bangalore. Very kind of him. He is a rare man and a rare Judge.

December 1, 1980

Got the shocking news this morning that K. Hanumanthaiah died this morning at 9.30. Sent a press statement through the Govt. Press Publicity Office. He had many faults, not honest, overbearing, too ambitious and had not much sense of public service. He had qualities that should be admired, great efficiency, drive and daring, suffered imprisonment and had an adjustable conscience and issued contradictory statements so that he could please the power that be and get into some position. I was at no time his admirer and kept him at a distance though he tried several times, when I was Chief Minister and later too, to approach me and for working together.

December 2, 1980

'Vanity of human wishes' I have been thinking of Hanumanthaiah. The man was extemely ambitious, vain and highly opinionated which were on the increase as he rose up from position to position. His birth and upbringing were none too satisfactory. Late H.K. Veeranna Gowda had stories to tell about Hanumanthaiah as a young student was ill-heard and when he came to position of authority, as a reaction to that ill-treatment took every chance to ill-treat or be discourteous to those who had been in better position than he. But that could be excused. He was an intelligent, efficient, and had drive and impressed as a Chief Minister. But he had no constructive approach to many problems and he would have been more effective. If he had it one cannot be blind to his many acts of commissions and omissions. He had many scandalous things to his credit.

With all the feelings he was loveable, friendly and acceptable. He often urged that we two should join and work together and that there would be nobody to oppose and we may be able to rule and build up Karnataka. I said it was for the people to accept us and I do not think this personal approach is proper. The man was still thinking of Karnataka Chief Ministership. He wanted to be in some place of power and that was responsible for his opposing Indira when the lady suddenly and wrongly dropped him from her cabinet and then began to speak in her favour and then started a party with himself as leader.

I would never encourage such an adventure. I am sorry for his innocent wife and his nice daughters whom I liked much.

The last month of the year has commenced. It has begun with our losing Hanumanthaiah, but how many have died in millions. How many have been born again in millions. Men may come and men may go, but I go on for ever. Man marches along. Will go on forever doubtful. He is only a small part of nature.

January 2, 1981

Today's Radio announced that President Sanjeeva Reddy appealed to the people that they must cooperate and help Prime Minister Indira Gandhi as she is interested in the progress of the country. A week back his tone was different. He had while opposing the idea of Presidential Form of Government made remarks which were not at all in favour of Indira. I am surprised. I recollect just now what happened in 1967 when after the elections Sanjeeva Reddy who was a Minister in Indira Cabinet was dropped. It is interesting. The previous night we had as usual met for dinner in Atulya Ghosh's house as he often invited us. He was a very good host. Of those who met Kamaraj, S.K. Patil, Ghosh had lost,

I and Sanjeva Reddy had won. We made fun of one another. I would continue as Chief Minister and Sanjeeva Reddy as Central Minister, etc. The next moring brought an unpleasant surprise. Sanjeeva Reddy had been dropped. I was upset and ran upto Kamaraj. He was more upset and when I suggested that both of us may go to PM he was so angry he said "I will not see her face *"Moonji Pakardille."* You may go yourself. I went to her and showed our anger and disappointment and asked her what was wrong with him. His career as Minister, Chief Minister and Central Minister was without blemish. She finally points she did not like him. I said not all like him, just then Reddy came on the lawn. I called him. He came immediately and said, Madam. I have come to tell you . I am not in the least worried. I am a Congressman. I will remain one. Your having me in your cabinet is not at all a worry to me. A thought struck me, I suggested Reddy be the Speaker of Lok Sabha . He pleaded he is not a lawyer. I told him he has years of experience in the legislature. He agreed if elders may want him. PM Indira also agreed and Reddy was asked to file his nomination. He agreed. But Indira sent for the Minister of State for Home. I Proposed his name and asked him to file his nomination against Reddy and told him to withdraw as he was unpopular and would fail. He refused as advised. Election took place and Reddy won by a convincing majority. This was a shock to me about her.

March 2, 1981

Sent a telegram to A.P. Sharma, Civil Aviation Minister to arrange sending a complementary air pass for the Constituent Assembly meeting on 28th and 29th of this month at Delhi, copied to Dwivedi, Secretary. I have also received intimation that I have been nominated as permanent invitee by the Janata President Sri Chandrasekhar

to the National Executive which was previously for years known as the Working Committee by the Congress. What a powerful body of men known for their patriotism, sacrifice, fighting spirit, undoubted courage, broad outlook and all unassailable character! It was a proud privilege to sit with those giants and participate in the deliberations of the Working Committee for nearly 22 years, except for two years when Pandit Nehru as President did not nominate me, till I myself became President in 1968 and continued for nearly 3 years. Proud and satisfying days.

There was nobody outside and things looked deserted. On going I learnt that because of her monther's condition Puri cried the whole night and they decided to postpone their flight. That was good. Got greatly concerned seeing wife being so weak and coughing, sitting to cough and again reeling back. Phoned to Dr. Reddy and Dr. J. Gowda and got them. Both examined her so as also Dr. Jaya. They felt there is no anxiety and she need not be admitted to hospital. They assured me of no anxiety. I was on the verge of tears. They wanted her to be taken to hospital for x-ray, blood test, unine test, BP etc. Sent her even in that condition to Victoria Hospital. Raja and Dr. Chandrasekhar took her, I was asked to stay back. She was brought back after about 3 hours at 12.30 p.m. She had some small quantity of liquid food, fruit juice and having lot of medicines. By evening medical reports came with Dr. Chandrasekhar. Everything was normal except there was lung congestion which also is waning away. I was relieved. So were all others, daughters, grandchildren, sons-in-law. By evening things looked slightly bright. My anxiety has been sleeping. Staying in KKG House, brought a lot of medicines. Dr. Reddy did not as promised come in the evening. Dr. G. Gowda came and informed us that he had accompanied the CM Gundu Rao as he had some trouble after an injection and as he had to

go to Delhi. Dr. Reddy was requested to accompany. Dr. D. G. examined and felt satisfied there was definite improvement.

Yesterday afternoon a man Sri Mehra from Delhi Nehru Museum and Library came and saw me for some letters etc.

March 27, 1981 *Delhi*

Got up early as I did not get sleep after 5.30. Had my usual 1 $^{1}/_{2}$ mile walk in the Bhavan area. As per my request Dr. P.N. Chopra and his charming wife came for breakfast and had a long talk with me about things related to writing of a political histroy about the freedom struggle. The British Government it seems have published a few volumes of correspondence during the long period of their stay in India till it became only correspondence but exhibiting their point of view and possibly exposing their strength and our weaknesses. Here our Government wants to publish correspondence from our point of view. There seems to be much politics in the appointment of a Committee and an Editor for the purpose. Even communal considerations may be involved and certain valuable documents brushed up from that outlook.

In the afternoon Sri Nahal of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library came and took me to the institution and the Dy Director Panigrahi and Mrs. Jolly who had come to my house sometime back, took me round the Museum and showed how they are preserving the various documents, letters, newspapers etc., of all places in India and leaders. Interesting work. My correspondence etc., are being so preserved. They got them some time back.

April 18, 1981 *Atulya Ghosh Died*

Sad news-Saddest. My old friend and colleague Atulya Ghosh passed away this afternoon as announced in today's

night radio. We were for long in the Working Committee of the Congresss for nearly 20 years and when I became Congress President he was in my Committee; he came out with me, rather we continued together after the split. He wrote an informative book, "The Split" about the break of the Congress. Sent condolence to Calcutta to his wife.

Yesterday night at 10.30 we had a small shower.

June 24, 1981

It is a saddest day S.K. Patil died. He was ailing for some time and was in hospital. One of the close friends, we had come very near to one another during the last 20 years. He, myself, C.B. Gupta, Kamaraj were practically of one mind along with Atulya Ghosh. Sanjeeva Reddy also. Even after Indira's advent and her unholy activities as PM and otherwise we ran together. Later Atulya left politics, Kamaraj after the emergency in 1975 practically suffered a shock and did not live long and had become mentally weak. Sanjeeva Reddy played his own selfish game and was never loyal to any principle. We three Gupta, Patil and myself were together and were very much against Indira. But lately Patil most unexpectedly joined her and the last time we two met in Delhi about a year and half back was when he spoke supporting her and I was upset and practically abused him and of course her.

It was not in his practice. And we kept up our correspondence and were on the best of terms and he had always kept a room specially for me all these years in the Bhulabhai building. A dear friend is lost. Could not get sleep thinking of him and his great services.

August 4, 1981 *Sowkar Veerabhadrappa Died 1.05a.m.*

Early morning at 6.30 learnt that Sowkar Veerabhadrappa passed away in the hospital at 1.05 a.m. and the body was

brought home early morning. Went to his house garlanded the body. A huge, tall, well built man. The body was removed from his house in decorated Sidige (bamboo frame) as is usual with Veerashaivas and after going through the town in a procession with band playing very mournful tunes, the body was buried in the family land in the interior. Would not go to that place though both of us wanted to attend the burial as the road was slippery and Raja did not allow us. The whole day I am thinking of Sowkar and my relationship with the family beginning from 1915, when I came here to join the only High School in the district. My relationship with his mother who began with disliking me and eventually within 3 years developed love and affection to such an extent that I became her loving younger son. Sowkar keeping me in college education sp. in Poona, my successful period as lawyer, then as freedom fighter, my term as a prisoner. Marriage of Gowri, my daughter with his son Paramesh one of the finest men but who became a drunkard and died two years back etc., etc., Unhappy to lose my benefactor, a good man, never harmed others, never thought or spoke ill of others but one who totally neglected his sons. I never understood him in this aspect. Phoned to Arun early morning and he came and attended the funeral.

December 10, 1981 *My Birthday*

As advised got ready by 9 a.m. Wife also after good deal of coaxing. Both went to the District Hospital and distributed fruits to the patients of various wards. I then went to the orphanage and distributed clothes to the inmates and then to the Urdu and another middle school and distributed sweets. Learnt that the total number of primary and middle school children was 14,000. After returning home had to receive garland, fruits about two to three hundred garlands and hundreds of people from all taluks of the district and from Tumkur, Shimoga and Bellary districts. This went on

the whole day. This time most of the people touched my feet which I did not at all like but had to submit. They took their lunch including my daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren and relatives and invited friends in my house. At 4.30 was taken to Neelakanteswara temple. After worship, was taken in a procession in a decorated jeep along Santhepete to the old middle school maidan. About 10,000 or more had gathered possibly one of the biggest meetings. The Swamys of Chitradurga, Sirigere, Jain Mutt of Humcha, Harijana Kodi Mutt, Christian Padre, Muslim divine and Raghavendra Swamy blessed. Khadar Basha, Chairman, welcomed after Smt. B. Jayamma well known actress sang an invocation. Devaraj Urs who spoke for an hour, Md. J. Imam, Dr. Nagappa Alva, spoke praising me. Peersab presented fruit, shawl, Pampapathi labour leader presented a cheque on behalf of Davanagere citizens of Rs. 80,000/- I spoke for half an hour so called message. Then ex-speaker K.S. Hegde, after him, all the religious heads spoke. After thanks the meeting terminated. Terribly tired. Had dinner with my own family. The whole thing was arranged by Citizen's Committee of Chitradurga.

October 31, 1984

Indira Gandhi was shot dead. Her Sikh security guards have shot at her. It was a shocking news and I condemmed the act. It is a cowardly act by the security fellows shooting an old helpless lady. It is inhuman. Her son Rajiv Gandhi was sworn in as P.M.

November 11, 1984

Media people have recorded my feelings about Indira's assassination. I expressed deep regrets for killing a frail lady inhumanly, dastardly and cowardly fashion. I expressed my liking for her as a mother, as a daughter, as a grand mother and for her sympathy for the poor and children, for her

efficiency, for her determination and drive to end proverty and unemployment. She was too much misled by phycophants and flatterers. I wished her soul peace.

January 11, 1985

Left for Chitradurga with Vivek and Manju at 9 a.m. and reached home at 12.25 p.m. and welcomed by wife and Rajanna. Prabhu is here on his way back from Davanagere Medical College to Bangalore. He is a very quiet boy. Required sleep badly and slept soon after lunch and had sound sleep till 4.30.

I am glad this disgusting and tiring Assembly candidates coming and troubling me is over.

After due consideration of press news and of conferences I have decided to give up membership of the Janata Party and not to join any other party and be by myself so that I can express myself without any constraints. This has been in my thoughts since many months since I began to realise that though Hegde is managing well and effectively, the honesty that is so necessary in a Government is lacking and money is being collected from undesirables in large amounts. This is no better than Cong(I). I will write to Hegde tomorrow. The casteism, groupism and the method of selecting candidates have made it impossible for me to continue. Better get out of this dirty atmosphere.

February 12, 1985 *Letter of Resignation to Janata*

Letter of resignation from Janata was written to Chief Minister Ramakrishna Hegde, that I cannot tolerate the deteriorating moral standards all round, Janata being no exception. Further the way in which candidates are being set up more on consideration of caste than on character, history, loyalty, discipline, etc. I have been disgusted after hearing from reliable quarters how groupism was also very much in

evidence. Hegde for his own ends of somehow continuing in power is knowingly tolerating and even obliquely encouraging it. Sent it by post to him and also sent copies of the letter to Janata President, Chandrasekhar and Karnataka Party President, Deve Gowda.

February 18, 1985 *Hegde Has Replied*

Phoned at 7.30 a.m. and Kiran replied that they had arrived safely at 11.30 p.m. in Bangalore and Prabhu was dropped in his house in Rajajinagar. We were happy.

Hegde has replied very evasively that he was the most disappointed man on account of the selection of candidates who had to be selected on other grounds than merit. It is a clever way of saying things. He was entirely in the game, dirty and dishonest. This he says just to satisfy me. I am not happy. I am not sure as I was definite before the selection of these many candidates that Janata will come out successful. Neither do I care as I see no difference between Cong(I) and Janata. Tweddledum and twedledee. Other parties do not count. But Janata on the whole has become weak and unconvincing. It is a pig. I had hopes. Leadership has failed.

March 6, 1985

Since morning after breakfast all have been glued to radios. I have been constantly by it. I had expected Janata to win by any large majority. But the success is beyond expectation, the result is not the party's influence but Hegde's popularity. It is good that so far as results are announced Janata get 135, Cong (I) about 80, others small numbers. It is good that Independents are very few. B.J.P. also 4 or 5, MES etc. As results were coming in hourly it was becoming more definite that Janata would win. About 204 results had come by 9.00 p.m. The rest would come later. I only wish Hegde

will give up his attitude of fear lest people like Deve Gowda would turn against him. I am sure by his casteism and communalism he will weaken the Govt. within a year or two. It is only in Karnataka, Andhra and Sikkim, other parties have won and Cong(I) defeated badly. In other States, Cong. (I) had won with huge majority. People only saw Cong. (I) The winning candidate of Chitradurga came and garlanded.

September 22, 1985

Prepared myself early to go and left Bangalore at 8.45 and reached home at 12 noon. Very tired but happy to be back.

I and my wife have lived together for nearly 60 years and there has been no occasion, when we have materially differed in any important issue. Had complete rest. But towards evening felt so tired that I took little food. A bit reeling in the head. Did not have the usual walk. Could not have, thoroughly weak and exhausted by the time I went to bed.

November 25, 1985, V. Venkataraman's tea in his house 5.20 p.m. Constituent Assembly Members' Meeting

As invited Ashok and others and Muddappa came for breakfast. We had a happy family gathering. I have to go to them for dinner on 27th evening. Went to Vithalbhai Patel Bhavan at 3.30. This time a larger number of members were present. Secy. Dwivedi told us how his efforts to have the Constitution Day Observation on 26 November in the Central Hall, Parliament where Constituent Assembly members were treated with indifference. Scant courtesy, even contempt by the Parliament Secretariat, the Speaker and the PM. So the function is to be inaugurated tomorrow in a Hotel on payment arranged by the Chief Justice of India. The V.P. Venkataraman is anxious to avoid being present

as the C.J. may be critical of Govt. So he invited all of us to his house for tea at 5.20 p.m. We all went and signed in a book kept for the purpose. He was so enthusiastic when he met me and hugged me with affection as it was long since we had met. In the Assembly meeting at 3.30 I suggested that we must advise Govt. where it has failed to implement the Directive Principles of Constitution. Prof. Ranga did not agree. Funny.

November 26, 1985

As I had some stomach trouble yesterday night I had very little breakfast and very light lunch. Went to the Ashoka Hotel where a Committee of Parliament members had invited us, members of the Constituent Assembly to honour us. Chief Justice of India Bhagwati inaugurated and made a good inauguration speech. Practically a political speech. Smt. Sarojini Mahishi, Committee Chairman, welcomed, Dwivedi made a small speech on behalf of Assembly Members Association as its Secretary. Then Ranga, Renuka Ray and myself and Moturi Satyanarayana made short speeches. We were each given a shawl, a copy of the Constitution a sandalwood garland and an address. Had fruits and milk and went to bed. I spoke about rural problems, constructive programme and district problems and State policies.

December 23, 1985

Left at 9 a.m. with Girija, Vivek, Manju driving. Reached K.K. at 12.30 and finding both Kiran and Parvathi and children not returned, had lunch with Gowri. After rest Hegde phoned he will pick me up and we reached Town Hall at 6. We had to wait for 15 minutes for K.S. Hegde to come. The Hall was fairly full and the function of publishing my biography written by Prof. Dr. D. Javare Gowda. Hegde inaugurated the function as he had to go away.

K.S. Hegde released the biography. The author Dr. J. Gowda spoke at some length an open forthright speech. Jatti, M.P.L. Shastry, Chandrasekhar, Kadidal Manjappa and one or two others spoke eulogising me. I had to reply and I did at fairly short length. It was very much appreciated as people told me later. Sp. my references to my wife and myself. Unfortunately she could not come as she cannot climb up the large number of steps and did not like being taken in a chair. She cannot also see well. I was as usual presented with a shawl and disc. So also was D.J. Gowda (the author). On the whole it was a fine function. Vivek as always was there to guide me along when steps came.

Kiran and Parvathi seem not to have come.

February 12, 1986

The first thing I learnt in the morning was a phone call from Shantamurthy to enquire if I have been requested to run up to Bangalore to solve the problem arising out of Hegde's resignation as Chief Minister. Within half an hour a car was sent with messenger Dr. Jeevaraj Alva to bring me to Bangalore. Vivek also came soon after to press me. I may go to Bangalore to solve the problem. Lakshmi Sagar and some others phoned that I should go over. Press people came and asked me. I told them it is surprising now to resign and this is not the time. Nothing more. My own feeling is he ought to have resigned immediately the High Court pronounced its decision. Why should he have waited? Having continued and a Loka Ayukta enquiry passed for there is no meaning in doing it now. I felt weak after yesterday's journey. Took rest and though unwilling decided to go and left at 4.00 p.m. and reached K.K. very late by 7.45 as the car, a taxi, sent for me had tyre trouble and I came in the other car of Shivappa very slow though

new. Extremely tired, had some bread and fruit in K.K. itself and went to bed.

February 16, 1986

As scheduled the Janata Party Board and then the Legislative Party met at 10.00 a.m. and possibly 10.30 a.m. respectively and within minutes passed resolutions choosing Hegde as leader of the Party unanimously. I was told at 1.15 p.m. Hegde rang up the Governor and possibly arranged for his swearing in ceremony and that of his Ministers. He and all the present Cabinet, State and Deputy Ministers took oath at 3.00 p.m. and the Cabinet met soon after and finished its sitting by about 6 p.m.

July 2, 1986

Got a bit upset the way, wife was abusing and finding fault with the Mali. She usually is dissatisfied with the servants, the cook who is too docile, the mali and the maid servant. She is more interested in finding fault instead of correcting them and advising them. Though I advise her she has not improved and this upsets me. I was upset that I just admonished and told her to "shut up". This quietened her and the whole day I was unhappy. I was angry and was upset. The whole day I was unhapy, wife also was unusually silent. This is second time, I have admonished her. The 1st was about 55 years ago when we were very young as husband and wife and then also when she treated the servant harshly I had called her "Rascal". Raja is also like his mother and upsets me.

August 14, 1986

Had breakfast just by myself and lunch also, took rest after reading the two statements by the Muslim leaders Syed Shahabuddin and M.J. Akbar, the one highly communal and inflammatory and the other much sober.

Had some needed rest. After lunch and rest went to the C.A.M. and had also my resolution passed which I drafted and got typed in the morning. I am glad. It refers to present economic chaos and the necessity for irrigation and cottage industries.Went to Rashtrapathi Bhawan, Vice-President Venkataraman sent his P.A. to get me there. He invited me for breakfast for 17th morning. Then the President Zail Singh enbraced me and whispered that it is my blessing that had made him what he is. I do not know. I met some old friends and Varadan IAS and his Executive Officer of Delhi who accused me of a big sin (evidently by dividing the Congress). Begam Aiaz Rusul was with me in the car. We talked with pride of old times. Enjoyed the evening. Old fellows who suffered for country's freedom.

September 3, 1986

After breakfast left for Belgaum at 8.30 and reached Medical College at 11.30 a.m. as we were held up near the city due to "security reasons" as President was passing through a connecting road. Had lunch and rest in Ranjit House, Guest contractor and left for the Pandal in front of the new building, was speaking to V.C. and other for a time. The rituals of the arrival and receiving the President and the National Anthem were gone through and the function began on time. Giani Jail Singh hugged me when introduced and also when he was going out. I felt protective steel when we hugged one another. The President laid the foundation of the Hospital Building and inaugurated the research hospital. Hegde, myself, Governor spoke after welcomed by Prabhakar Kore K.L.E. Chairman of Society. I made reference to the beginnings of K.L.E. Society and wished them well. The President made his speech. He has much improved since I saw him 17 years ago when he was P.C.C. President of Punjab and I of A.I.C.C. After the function we left for Hubli

at 7 p.m. and reached Hubli at 10 a.m. I had to see Umakantha. He was happy to see us. I felt sad when he was alone in his house working.

September 16, 1986

We had good rain throughout yesterday night more than two inches. This was most urgent. It is widespread enough and helped the farmers whose crops were withering. Looks as if it is fairly widespread. Today it was sultry and I expect rain tonight also.

Agitation against Venkataswamy Report has taken a violent turn and the agitation seems to have gone into the hands of the unsocial *goonda* elements who not only interfere with the water supply in Bangalore City. This is going too far and Govt. should act and see that punishment is meted out to such elements. I have made up my mind not to recommend any appointments etc., but to confine myself to public matters.

September 30, 1986 *Sardar Patel Trust, Bombay*

The first to come to me this morning was Smt. Indumathi Adya and her son Jivan. I was happy to see them and reminded ourselves of old memories . Adya I learnt has gone to Ghat. They are all very well. Later old friend Belpuri Shetty and his first son-in-law came and spent an hour as the other reviving old memories. He has slight paralysis of the tongue and is getting better. While taking leave he thrust a small packet into my pocket and hurriedly went away. Later I found to my amazement it was Rs. 2000/- I must return it immediately when I go back. Why did he do it?

Went to the meeting in the taxi that was at my disposal the whole day to Morarji Bhai in "Oceana" for Marine Drive. Sadiq Ali, Shyam Nandan Mishra, Manubhai Patel, etc., were present along with office manager. It went on from

3.30 to 6.30 p.m. and we made some useful decisions. On my request it was decided to hold the next meeting in Baroda so that we could see the village where Morarji claimed they had a village where self sufficiecy constructive work was going on. I doubt if Morarji's claim is fully correct as he is not there himself. He is same old self-opinionated man he has been. But he was not able to have his way in all things. Shyamanandan Mishra (Shyam Babu) is the same as he has been assertive and self-opinionated trying to express contradictory opinions. The Managing Trustee Manubhai Patel also I find wants to have things his own way but readily yeilds.

Later from there went to the house. "Real House" where the late Hafizka lived, the name of the road has been changed and found it difficult to find it. The driver Mahadev searched and brought with him Kumud Hafizka. After husband's death she seems to be facing difficulties and feeling anxious about her money. She suspects her husband's relatives. She poured out her difficulties being alone except now for a time her sister and her children are with her. I found that she got herself converted to be a Muslim and was called Kumu. She wants my sympathy and help. I told her I would do everything possible. I am not sure how I can help. The guest house is fairly confortable.

October 9, 1986

Funny. I received an anonymous letter in Kannada from a Punjab terrorist so calling himself that I would be shot. The handwriting is laboured. I am sure it is sheer innocent mischief. Rajanna wants me to send it to the S.P. I may.

December 7, 1986 *Delhi*

Basavarajeswari, Basavaraju, Rama Gowda, MPs came and

talked about irrigation, etc., and I should see the PM. Jaffar Sherif and Journalist Patil came for courtesy call. Similarly Shyam Dhar Misra, Ex. Secy, Ashok came at 1 and both went to Prof. Sondhi's House for lunch where I met a Buddhist priest, the well-known author and journalist Melville Mello and his wife, (Indian), a **INDIA TODAY'S** Delhi's correspondent and his wife, a Prof. and his wife (Kannadigas) a long get together from 1.30 to 4 pm.

Prof. Sondhi wanted me to take the lead for world peace promised to write to him, talked about many world matters and of Indian personalities past and present with De Mello and Tibetan Priest. Took leave of all of them and sent Ashok home at 4.30. A little rest. P.V. Narasimha Rao who at my request to find time himself came to me at 6 and remained with me for an hour. We discussed present situation and world peace. He wanted some contribution, (6 lakhs) from Karnataka Govt. towards Swamy Ramananda Tirtha 'Memorial'. Told me PM was very reasonable. Promised to help Karnataka Hindi Prachar Samiti.

January 11, 1987

As scheduled met at 9 a.m. the Dalai Lama in Ashoka Hotel in an 8th floor suite. Discussed for 1/2 an hour the necessity of India taking the initiative to form a committee and tour the whole world with the cooperation of leaders of respective countries and appeal for world peace. That has been my suggestion. He promised to consider it and discuss it the next time I visit Delhi. We also discussed their camps in Karnataka. He is happy . He presented his book "Kindness, Charity and Insight" with his good wishes.

Went to the civil area and presided over the felicitation meeting to Satyagrahi M. Paraminelu. It (Perupalu) was a very good gathering in the Tamil Sangam Building. Quite a large number of speeches were made by his admirers

including Chief Whip of Janata Party in the Assembly. M. C. Perumal made a short suitable speech. In the evening Dr. H. C. Thimme Gowda was with me for an hour. When he was here many people met me including Davanagere Hill People.

April 13, 1987

As could be expected there has been an uproar in Rajya Sabha which has adjourned without transacting any business. All papers are full of V.P. Singh's resignation. Prime Minister sending it to President for its immediate acceptance. Singh's appointment and now commission of Rs. 30 crores to an Indian on Defence orders, creates definite suspicion about Central Govt's dishonesty, corruption, and about Rajiv Gandhi being "clean'. The way in which Singh was sent out of Finance Ministry, his previous actions against the most important business houses and some of them being prosecuted, this appointment of foreign (American) Agency to find out about Indira's bank accounts in Swiss Banks and now this commission agency's misbehaviour all point out that he has become *persona non grata* with Rajiv whose claim to be "clean" is very much now in doubt. The opposition is so too and should make the best use of the situation.

May 12, 1987

Goa has been given Statehood. I am not sure if it was necessary to have such small States. But their history of these 300-400 years and culture possibly requires. I have often a feeling that India should have 25 handy States with population of 4 to 5 crores and Hindi area may be redivided into 5-6 States. This is a difficult and complicated question. President's rule has been imposed on Punjab, though it seems necessary it may have unhappy repercussions. We must wait.

July 22, 1987

On invitation Prof. Sondhi and his wife Madhuri came for breakfast and spent an hour with me and wanted that I must publish my autobiography soon and that I should move towards a global movement for peace and involved the Dalai Lama and Indian leaders, some riff raff, Mohan wasted my time for an hour.

After lunch and rest left for the 2nd meeting of the National Committee Convention of the 40th Anniversary of Indian Independence and Nehru's Centenary at 5.30 in a car sent by them. Reached the hall at 6 and had to be there till 6.30 for Chairman-elect Venkataraman and PM to come. Unduly strict security arrangement. I throught about 50 would attend. It was a big conference nearly 300 to 400. After preliminaries by Chairman and PM and a report by Kaul, Sheela members who had sent chits were allowed to speak on suggestions. About 25 - 30 spoke. I spoke on free and compulsory education and cottage industries. I do not think much will come out. Over by 9.00 p.m. Jatti then guided me to go outside.

July 23, 1987

Ashok my grandson came and spent some time.

This morning invited Dr. P.N. Chopra and his wife for breakfast. He is Editor-in-Chief of History of the Independence Movement. He presented me with two volumes. One very bulky. We were together for two hours till 10.30. We discussed the present political situation and expressed dissatisfaction. Agreed on many points.

Went to M.N. Dwivedi, Secy. of Consembly Members' Association at 13 College Road and spent an hour with him. He told me he would have the Association Meeting on 14th and meet the new President. Attend the Independence Day

Celebration and as suggested by Prof. Sondhi speak at the Nehru University. So I have to reach Delhi on 13th and be there till 18th. Ashok took me to his house for lunch with him, Nirmala and the two boys. In the afternoon at 4, Shankaranand, Irrigation Minister met me and spent 1 1/2 hours discussing political situation. He felt Rajiv should have better advisers around him and old people like us should advise him. Yesterday and today walked 1/2 an hour on the verandah.

July 25, 1987

Yesterday Ashok my grandson came and spent some time. He still has the political bee in his bonnet. But what party he should join! Dr. Chopra came and presented me with the other 5 volumes of Govt. Publications. The volumes were presented by Chopra duly packed; left for airport at 10.15 and after waiting for an hour left Delhi in time at 11.50 and reached Bangalore a few minutes earlier. Jatti sat by me in the plane and agreed so eagerly with what all I said. Told him that the land of some 40 acres near Bangalore to Basava Samithi of which he is President should be utilised to have a model village built on principle of Basavanna's lines and self-sufficient and self-sustaining lines and on Gandhian lines. He spoke of Diwakar.

July 28, 1987

Attended the meeting at 10 a.m. in the Krishna Building, CM's separate office. I was introduced by Chief Minister who is Chairman of the Council. About 25 people attended including 10 members of the Council of Ministers, Bommai, Alva, and Secretaries and Heads of Departments. I spoke for about 45 minutes regarding literacy being neglected in spite of Guiding Principles, neglect of irrigation, cottage industries, decentralisation of location of industries, (major being restricting population and growth of cities, etc.) on

the lines of my A. Ghosh Memorial lectures. Council Vice-Chairman G.V.K. Rao and another member from Delhi spoke. The V.C. was on his usual bureaucratic self-defensive, the others were complimenting me. After an hour of this discussion of my speech they took up other subjects. Sat for another 45 minutes and at 12 noon left the place. Members were respectful.

August 9, 1987 *Anniversary of the 1942 movement*

Being observed in many places, it is good that it was specially observed in Gwalia Tank Maidan in Bombay, where began the resolution when in the early morning of that day in 1942 all leaders were arrested. The previous day in the same Maidan the Quit India Resolution was passed. That picture of Gandhiji on the resolution speaking, in his own calm irresistible voice still fresh in my memory. In Bangalore also it was observed. I received an invitation card yesterday. I could not attend.

August 18, 1987

Ashok phoned from Bangalore. He has returned from Algeria and is well. His boy Harsha is alright in Meerut and sometimes feels home sick. His family now is in Hubli. His health has improved.

Very slight drizzle in the evening. Radio said that Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, now Governor of Maharashtra, has filed his nomination for the Vice-Presidentship. He seems to be the accepted candidate of both the Congress (I) party and others. He was one of my General Secretaries along with Sadiq Ali and Venkatasubbaiah when I was Congress President. It is interesting all the 3 Secretaries have been Governors.

August 29, 1987

No rain and only flimsy clouds.

Dr. Chopra had sent papers to be signed by me to form an association to publish Sardar Patel's Biography and to publish other papers connected with him as no such attempts have been made by the present Govt. though they are going to publish Motilal Nehru's, Jawahar Lal Nehru's and Indira Gandhi's . It is mainly because they are Rajiv Gandhi's grandfather and his mother. Other leaders entitled to better notice and respect like Rajendra Prasad. Moulana Azad are left out of account. None of them can equal Patel's contribution in integrating the country into one entity. I have agreed to be presently Chairman and other important people Vice Chairman and members. Dr. Chopra is the main man.

March 3, 1988

In the evening after phoning beforehand the new Governor Venkatasubbiah came to my room with his wife at 7.30 p.m. bringing the silk cocoon big garland and fruits. These offers I did not expect. "Possibly because he was for two (nearly) years my Secretary along with Sadiq Ali and Shankar Dayal Sharma, now Vice-President, when I was the Congress President in 1968 and 1969. He wanted to meet me though I had said on the phone I would myself meet him. It was very courteous of him and his lady to come and express respect on account of old relationships.

March 19, 1988

Dr. Chopra phoned from New Delhi to tell me about the necessity to write to some Chief Ministers to send their contribution. He has also written the oames of some private businessmen and rich persons to whom I can write for

donations to the Society for Publications of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's Publications. He has also informed me that the Society has been registered. I will have to write immediately for donations. I have written to Hegde to implement his promise and similarly to Devilal who spoke to me on the phone about a week back that he woud contribute 1 $^{1}/_{2}$ lakhs. I will write to him and to others.

March 22, 1988

Being not inclined to work and as no letters requiring reply lazied the whole day. Only one letter of any importance was received from the Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. That my request that the Central University at Hyderabad may be named Swami Ramananda Thirth University has been referred to the Minister for Human Resources. He has also written to me that he will consider the matter with sympathy. That Minister himself was a follower of the Swami and I think he will do the needful.

March 23, 1988

Inspite of my disinclination to sit and write anything I had to write an urgent letter to Prof. M.L. Sondhi, New Delhi, who wanted me to participate in a one-day seminar on "Social Pluralism and Question of Terrorism." I wrote a reply hurriedly by this morning. Got it typed by Rajanna and posted it. I had received his letter only yesterday. I had to write to Varadraj Adya's family of Bombay, my old friend with whom I was often staying when in Bombay and whose wife and children were so close to me, as I read in the Indian Express that he died some days ago. I was shocked. I wrote to his wife expressing my and my wife's sense of loss and conveyed to the family our condolences.

At about 7.30 p.m. got a phone from Dr. Chopra about

Sardar Patel's Society which we have formed and got registered and of which I am Chairman. He is sending me the registration document. I am waiting. I have to get immediately Rs.3 lakhs from Hegde which he has promised. I have written to him.

April 27, 1988

In accordance with my phone Dr. Chopra and his wife came for breakfast at 8.15 and spent nearly 2 hours discussing many things, the contribution, financial and otherwise to Sardar's Publication Society, Russian influence on Indian Govt., Nehru's failures, as well as of Indira, Rajiv, my autobiography, diaries etc. Phoned to Minister of Education and Culture regarding contribution to Patel's Publication Society, who was very courteous but told me to speak to Smt. Sheela Dikshit who is the Secretary of the 40th year of Freedom Celebration Committee. Chopra informed about a Communist- card holder who has been made Chairman of the Publication of Freedom Struggle is creating trouble to Chopra who is Chief Editor and who does not toe the line regarding Communists in India. Russia seems to be pulling wires on behalf of the Chairman.

April 29, 1988

As requested yesterday Prof. Sondhi, his wife, son Vivek came for breakfast and spent 1 1/2 hours and discussed many problems specially relationship with neighbours. He wants me to tour Pakistan, Bangladesh, China etc. to bring about peace and understanding. It is he thinks possible. I am not sure. The 40th year of India's Independence and Jawaharlal Nehru's Centenary Committee began as scheduled in Vigyan Bhavan. President Venkataraman welcoming, PM speaking and after condolences members began to express themselves. I was the 2nd and dealt with

irrigation, its neglect these years; necessity and benefits, several aspects of Khadi, leather industry, etc., and reservation being necessary. I was given more time but President thought I was taking more time. My references did not evoke much response as I could see, either from PM or most members. Possibly the subjects were foreign to them. About 30 people spoke out of about 250. The majority were making flattering references to Nehru. Some dealt with drinking water, with arts, etc. Only one member referred to corruption and in strong terms. Closed at 7 p.m. Karnataka Governor Venkatasubbiah took me to and back from the hall, stood by my side and took care of me near the steps. On my other side sat Brahmananda Reddy, now Governor of Maharashtra. K.C.Pant Defence Minister sat by me for a time and we spoke of past days during Panditji's days.

June 1, 1988

Attended to Correspondence. Wrote to Chief Minister of Gujarat Sri Chaudhury to contribute money to Sardar Patel's Publications. Except 3 lakhs I have not received any help from other Chief Ministers.

June 24, 1988

At about 11 a.m. I learnt that V.V. Giri, , Ex-President of India died in his house in Madras early morning after taking bath. It is a natural trouble-free death. He was 86. A good fighter for country's freedom all the way through, a labour leader, a spirited man who stood by labour and resigned when he differed from Rajaji in Madras Govt. and from the Central Cabinet when he had differences with Nehru on Labour Problems. But it is a mystery why he stood for Presidentship though he was a Congressman. He did not resign from its membership. I was President at the time.

He and Indira joined hands and Indira wanted that her candidate alone should win. Sri Sanjeeva Reddy was her candidate. Giri wanted to be Governor of Karnataka and I as C.M. helped in his appointment. He wanted to be Vice-President when Dr. Zakir Hussain became President. I strongly recommended his case as he was eager to be Vice - President. Good health. Only yesterday he had suggested a National Government with Indira as Prime Minister. A wrong idea.

August 15, 1988 *Independence Day*

Whose independence is it so far as the common man is concerned? Specially the poor farmer and the farm labour. His life has seen no change during the last 33 years. On the contrary it has definitely worsened. It has brought for those in authority, the ministers, party members, the bureaucracy from top to bottom except a few, wealth, happiness, high standards of living. Along with them the rich industrialists whose number is on the increase and now during the last 15 years the rich farmers who wield considerable influence: even the industrial labour, private and public, are better off. About 30 to 35% all told belong to this class. The rest of the vast majority 65 to 70% are economically going down still and miserable. This situation has been becoming more and more pronounced during the last 15 years or so since Indira came to power. Being herself corrupt in all aspects of life, corruption has become all important. This unspeakably wretched situation is to end. This woman's Government should end both in the Centre and the States. Wherever we turn there is corruption, rising prices, misery. Gandhi's name is quoted by the PM Indira as being our guide now and in the future. What a farce! In her speech today from the Red Fort she mentioned casteism,

communalism, corruption, etc. as being the diseases that we have to fight. Not a word about removal of poverty and unemployment. She is trying to find out alibis for her failures in opposition parties, mischievous anti-social elements, foreign hand, etc. while the entire responsibility for inflation, deteriorating law and order situation, unstable Governments in States, rest squarely on her inefficient, dishonest, power-mad and unhealthy leaders and sycophants around her.

August 27, 1988

Today is an anxious day. Wife had no sleep the whole night and had vomiting and is now extremely weak. She had lost consciousness and everybody is unhappy. I got up early, did everything before 7 a.m. and was ready to send Puri, Jaya and Pravi and Avi to Toronto and expecting quite a few friends and members of my family to go to Airport.

September 18, 1988

Prabhu alone came at 11 a.m. and had lunch, left for Bangalore.

Since yesterday wife is not feeling well and complained of pain in the left side of the chest. I am getting anxious and wanted to send for a doctor, she said we may wait till tomorrow.

September 19, 1988

Had a talk with Tamil Sangam Secretary. He said they would come on Wednesday, I said yes.

Wife's condition is better. She feels weak and is restless as she cannot sit or sleep and is unhappy. Sent for Dr.Hanumanthappa and also for our own Dr. Prasadi (Siva Prasad). Both came and examined her. They found her B.P. all right and heart also. Suspect gas and have prescribed some drugs. She is not happy and could not rest properly.

At night she had rug and counterpane. But she felt cold and had a kambli and shawl to feel comfortable. She had some sleep.

September 20, 1988

Wife's condition has not improved. I wanted ECG to be taken. Two doctors including Dr. Hanumanthappa came and the ECG showed nothing serious the heart was normal. They wanted her to have complete rest. She is having it. But does not feel alright. She had her food but not as usual. Her health has to be watched.

Yesterday and today we had a few drops of rain in the afternoon at about 4 p.m.

September 21, 1988

Wife's condition causing great anxiety. She herself walked to the kitchen block for lunch and while returning to bed felt exhausted and Rajanna had to rest her in the middle and take her to the bed-room. She complains of pain in the arm. Phoned to Dr. Hanumanthappa who came at about 6 and and had ECG.

He says it is heart trouble. I am worried and feel at a loss what to do. Vivek brought the doctor and the ECG machine in his car. Dr. H. has phoned to Dr. G.N. Reddy to Bangalore, explained to him the condition and seek his opinion. She is advised to have me and Raja to take care of her. Phoned to Parakka to Hubli about the situation. She has promised to come tomorrow with Gowri. That gives some satisfaction. After all these 61 years with her, I think she will get over this attack. Some 7-8 years ago she had this trouble and got over it the same way as I did.

September 22, 1988

Parakka phoned at 10 a.m. She, Gowri 'Prakash' and Ummanna will be reaching at 3 to 4 pm starting late by car.

They came at 4. Attended K. Rangappa's grandson's marriage at 4 pm. Dr. Nissar Ahmed another doctor on request from Vivek came at 12 and examined wife and advised as did Dr. H. that liquid food and rest are necessary. Parakka and others after coming were welcomed and we were all so happy. Wife was exceedingly happy and possibly their presence will hasten her recovery.

Dr. N. Ahmed came at 9.30 p.m. and after taking ECG again found improvement since yesterday and advised complete bed rest and there is little to worry . He is Prakash's classmate. Prakash left for Hubli in the car at 10.15 p.m.

September 23, 1988

Wife's condition continues as before. But I have a feeling not all is well. By night she began to feel restless and felt pain in the left arm, back and front, Parvathi was there and after some time, satisfied she left wife. Took a compose pill.

September 24, 1988 *Wife to Bangalore Lake View Hospital Intense Care Ward*

Yesterday night, wife's condition very much worsened. She did not sleep. At 4 a.m. even an injection of compose did not bring sleep. I am alarmed. She was sitting, had her left hand, bank massaged. But no effect. At 9 both Dr. Hanumanthappa and the Senior Surgeon Reddy came, took ECG and found her condition very bad and felt that she should be taken to Davanagere or Bangalore. But felt even that journey she may not bear and feared the worst. Alarmed, phoned to Dr. G.N. Reddy to Bangalore. After he heard from Dr. Hanumanthappa about her condition advised immediately being brought to Bangalore to his Lake View Hospital, in a good car. Thippa Reddy, the mill owner, on request immediately sent his standard 2000 a luxury car

and within an hour and half we all got ready. Ummanna, Parakka, and myself, it was decided, should go with her. But Vivek, Dr. Prasadi also got ready. So Thammanna brought his car and Prasadi his new fiat. Wife, Ummanna, a male nurse, Prasadi left in the big car, myself, Parakka in Thammanna's car he himself driving. Dr. Hanumanthappa, Vivek, Manju in the Fiat 3rd. On the way when the big car stopped thrice may heart would miss a beat fearing the worst. It was only for her to have some water. We reached Dr. Reddy's hospital at 4.30 p.m. Dr. Reddy was waiting. Immediately admitted, preliminary tests made. Found there was some internal bleeding. Within half an hour, Kiran family, Prathibha and family, Anasurya and family, Girija and family began to arrive and stayed there till 9 pm.

Blood was taken from all of them so that in case of necessity blood may be given to wife. Ummanna's agreed. He gave a litre of blood. After an hour and half Dr. R. assured things have improved and I may go. I was also feeling done up. Hopes are high, she will be alright. Left at 7.30 and went to bed at 10, tired and worried.

October 8, 1988

In the morning she was alright and when I visited her in the afternoon though her cough has gone down, she had a few motions and feeling weak and not taking interest in anything though Dr. R. says these small complications occur. I am again upset. My mind in turmoil imagining all sorts of results to all of us and sp. to me. By evening her condition had improved. I was happy. I am under tension all the while. Physically also feel exhausted.

Just because I had expressed an opinion about some leaders specially Chandrasekar, a Press Conference has been arranged by Jagdish. I agreed to meet them though my mind is under stress.

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October 10, 1988 She Died at 10 a.m, Lake View Hospital

She looked alright though Parakka felt she was a bit weak. Was talking well. When I visited her she held my hand. We naturally did when we met. I went there in a hurry as Parakka phoned. There seemed slight set-back. They had oxygen mask. I was told she had herself drunk milk and had a clove. She was awake and spoke. I was asked after seeing her to go and she was alright and doing well. I came out and was about to sit in the car but was asked to come for a minute. I felt something wrong. By the time I went in a minute I was sure she had left me and doctors were only applying pressure to wring the dead heart. Sat there for 10 minutes. Dr. Reddy dolefully announced heart had stopped. I went in to see the beloved face. Could not contain and cried loudly and long and uncomfortably. The doctors pacified us; even Parakka felt world has gone to zero. I was given pill and forced to lie down. In a few minutes Bommai pill and forced to lie

down. In a few minutes Bommai came and I again burst out. In half an hour Hegde came and I could not contain myself. We decided we should take her body at 3 p.m. Everybody got prepared. Muddappa arranged for a private hospital van, the body was laid in it stretched. Raja, Chandrasekhar L.S. and two others accompanied the body. I, Vivek and others came in one car and others came in 2 other cars. We reached Chitradurga a bit early though we left at 3.30. The van left at 3.15. It reached at 7.30.

October 11, 1988

People had already gathered as Radio had announced the news. The body was kept on a cot in the hall. Lamp was lit and people were keeping vigil and some slept. I was given a strong dose of compose. But I got up several times, looked at the dead face. The body was covered with flowers. All the daughters except Purnima have come and all the 3 sons and grandchildren. Today morning 11th though without sleep made show of getting up. Brushed teeth and washed face. No bath. People began to gather from the town, Davanagere, Challakere, Bangalore, Shimoga, etc. Women of the town in large numbers. We were all waiting. At about 1 p.m Puri came from Canada and the whole of the family sent a wail and I and the last child Puri embraced one another and cried uncontrollably for more than 5 minutes, till we were separated. Vivek who has been the mainstay to have everything arranged had four buses ready to take the body to Dodda Siddavanahalli. A number of cars followed the bus. Before the body was removed from the house I had to worship it. I again broke down and cried and had to be pacified. I worshipped by placing Vibhuti, Kumkum etc., on the forehead. But I worshipped her feet also. Does she not deserve it? The procession went through Horapet, Santhepet and then on to the field near D.S. Halli about 4

miles. A quiet place cleared and is in the trust property in my name created by Vivek. About 200 persons including 100 women and all my daughters and sons, did the burial formalities and I also threw the first sod 3 times, others followed. We all returned to the house after washing our hands and feet in the water being pure brought from the bore well in the same field. After returning home and throwing rice and the lamp which was kept burning, all left except only the members of the family. If was a sad thing without her. All unhappy, how we miss that good great lady who blessed me and my children, grand children all these 62 years: It is difficult to bear. After food we went to bed.

October 12, 1988

The day was somehow spent. Telegrams, letters and all people personally coming in large numbers to express their condolences and paying homage to her. Can I get her back? Do I see her again? Is there anybody for me to address as I did in all affection and love. "Little One"? I have become alone. Do I remain long after her. I do not know. I want to follow her early. Can I ? I do not know. All children are present. That is a satisfaction. She would have been so happy to see them in a bunch. She herself is not here. Already a day in the earth.

February 28, 1989

The budget has been announced by the Central Finance Minister. Platitudes and platitudes regarding the poor and employment. A little show of falling the right but relief for the poor, below the poverty line is not real but a show of it. That is being done all along and is repeated again and again.

March 10, 1989

From K.K. went to Cubbon Park where the Tibetans after a huge march in the city came in fairly large numbers along

with about a thousand sympathisers of Bangalore to observe the 30th anniversary of their uprising against Chinese aggression. I was the chief guest. The leader read a brief of H.H. Dalai Lama's message or statement. They enacted a small physical show of how the Chinese soldiers were executing Tibetan citizens and beating them mercilessly. It impressed me and made me sad and angry. I made a 20 minutes speech and the burden of my speech was the Chinese had no right to be in Tibet as conquerors, how Nehru did wrong in admitting Chinese suzerainty over Tibet, appealing to the world to press China to quit and the Chinese leaders to quit in consideration of their own sorry state before they became free 40 years ago. It was over by 1.15 p.m.

March 20, 1989

Decided to go to Delhi on 8th after attending Basaveshwara function on 6th April and be in Delhi, till 10th or 11th to attend to Sardar Vallabhbhai Society's work, to meet some MPs to get a site in Delhi to construct a building to commemorate Sardar's name, if necessary to release book on Gorbachev by M.L. Soudhi as requested by him. Wrote to Dr. Chopra accordingly.

I have undertaken a big responsibility re. the publication. Dr. Chopra mostly takes the initiative. I am ably helped by him. There are others on the committee mostly Vice Chancellors of Universities and an M.P. is V. President and another treasurer. They are all not known to me. One big thing is I have to collect funds. I think I will do so. So far Karnataka and A.P. Chief Ministers have contributed Rs. 3 lakhs each. There are promises.

March 28, 1989

For the first time this year heard the Cukkoo song and I was delighted. I think the fellow will make a nest near my house.

There is now a cherry tree with lots of fruit which may attract him.

March 30, 1989

The lowering of voter's age has today become a Central Act of lowering the age from 21 to 18. It has been agreed to without much debate and by the required number of States as required by the Constitution. I remember having said as early as April or May 1968 in the first A.I.C.C. meeting, after I became President. I had seriously suggested that the voting age should be reduced to 18 years and given reasons. It is good it has now become law after 21 years.

April 6, 1989

A large part of the day was taken up in writing to the remaining 8 Ministers [Chief] to contribute to Sardar's collected works.

April 21, 1989

Today's night radio news was that President's Rule has been ordered in Karnataka and Assembly dissolved puts an end to this Bommai Govt. I have no tears to shed for this Govt. It had no discipline as a party, no efficiency and order as Govt. Immorality and corruption were its attributes. But the way in which the whole thing has been measured by the Centre leaves much to be desired. It is hurried and seems pre-arranged. While I have no regrets, for the end of the State Govt, I have nothing but utter contempt for the Central Govt. Both deserve condemnation. I wish both the Congress(I) and the Dal [Janata], in fact every party in India loses in the coming elections and only honest independents will be returned in all the States and Centre. It will be possibly a good experiment to have a no party Government. Let us see how things shape themselves.

April 22, 1989

I felt strongly about the imposition of President's Rule in our State and told the press representatives in Chitradurga about no tears for dismissal of Govt. of immoral, indisciplined party. Also contempt for Central Govt. for the way in which the whole thing is stage-managed. Also appealed to people to consider seriously about next election to L.S. & Assembly as no party in India is good. Indeed bad and corrupt.

Will my statements be published? I am not sure as both Govt. Central and State are sharply abused.

April 25, 1989

This evening at 5.30 p.m. people came about 6-7 of them with their cameras and recording appliances and record my statements about the President's Rule in Karnataka and Center's hand in it. I repeated what I have said already that the Bommai Govt. did not deserve to continue because of indiscipline, corruption, inefficiency, etc., but that the Centre has misbehaved and I have unqualified contempt for them. I said no Govt. in India deserve to exist. All were dishonest and each minister or member of all parties was for himself and neither for country nor people nor even party. I also dealt with communalism and condemned it in no uncertain terms. They were here for 3/4hours.

April 30, 1989

I had my one hour walk and then we 3 were sitting on the verandah and talking about everything and everybody. We are all rationalists and today we discussed the question of rebirth and came to the conclusion there is no rebirth and we will not be born again.

May 2, 1989

As informed yesterday "India Today's" man Rajavansi came at 11.30 with his camera man, recorder, etc., and interviewed me for about 1 ½ hours. He was mostly interested in my statement to the press on 22nd of last month re. dismissal of the Bommai Ministry and dissolution of Assembly. I repeated what I had said. (1) No tears for the Govt. with the indisciplined party of corrupt and selfish members. (2) Unadulterated contempt for Central Govt. which has imposed President's Rule and stage-managed it. (3) No political party in India deserved to be returned, all being corrupt, etc., (4) Asking the people to think before voting as no party deserved their votes. He asked a number of questions re. Nehru and Gandhi, Patel and got my answers. I was quite frank and had contempt for Indira, only partial admiration for Nehru and felt the present PM was raw and ignorant and influenced by bad people round about.

May 14, 1989

Beginning to feel more and more that this house which I built nearly 55 years ago is too big and lonely and almost deserted. I did not feel it as long as wife was living. Now the feeling is creeping over me.

It is a great step that Gorbachev, President of U.S.S.R. has taken to visit China after 30 years of misunderstanding. Yesterday he has been cordially received by his Chinese opposite member. He will be there for 3 days. I am sure with his attitude to world problems and yearning for world peace and understanding something important will emerge. It is significant there is now terrible struggle by Chinese students in Beijing, which is having considerable effect on China rulers. To me it is welcome.

June 1, 1989

Since yesterday I am drafting a letter to Rajiv Gandhi PM regarding his recent loud proclamations about Panchayati Raj, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana giving my opinion about the emptiness of the boast.

June 5, 1989

Parakka is our first child and though 61 years herself a mother of 9 and grandmother of 15, I have always felt so much drawn towards her as our child, wife also felt first likewise. Today she was sad to leave the house. Both of us would in the evening sit on the Verandah and think of her mother who inspite of her having lost most of her sight would know everything that went on and saw to it that the house so clean and everything went on smoothly. Parakka expressed that she knew politics very well and judged people better than myself. That is true.

June 6, 1989

Sent a letter to PM Rajiv Gandhi regarding his Jawahar Rozgar and his Gram Panchayati Raj Bill pointing out their defects and what has to be done to find out gainful employment to unemployed poor in the villages. I do not think he is serious in the first place. I am sure they are only pre-election stunts.

June 8, 1989

Since more than weeks and months students' agitation for democracy and removal of corruption has been going on. But since one week it has taken a nasty turn and students in Beijing have been killed along with their sympathiser professors in Tianman square. The agitation has been going on in other important towns and has been ruthlessely put down. The killed possibly may be in thousands and

foreigners are leaving the capital. I think the agitation had to happen. There is a challenge in the Communist Party ruled world. Gorbachev is wise and has taken steps boldly to usher in a change. Poland also has changed.

June 16, 1989

The press conference today was very well attended. Nearly 20 journalists and news agencies were present. I first distributed copies of my letter to PM Rajiv Gandhi of 3rd re. his statements of Panchayati Raj Institution, Jawahar Rozgar and about vital matters, vital to village progress generally and of Bio-gas and energy etc. It was read by all with interest and questions and answers went on for about an hour. It finished at about 12.30. They were keen on getting my answers about a Party alternative to Congress. I told them it would be possible and even successful if all the leaders took an oath before the people that none of them would accept office and would place before the people their programme with special emphasis on Gandhian plan. I also told them is a matter for public thinking if a non-party Government is possible. It is an experiment and should be tried considering that no political Party in India was worth considering that every Party's leadership, legislative members, administrative machinery were generally very corrupt. China also came in. On the whole I was satisfied. I do not know how the press and public will react to my opinions or if they will neglect them altogether.

June 21, 1989

It seems Rajiv Gandhi is going over to Hubli tomorrow. The man is going about the country and more often to Karnataka. He seems to have begun his election propaganda in great earnest even from now. It is a pity he is indulging in all sorts of cheap promises and assurances like Panchayat Raj, Jawahar Rozgar, going to a very low level of personal

attacks and misleading people. He thinks the common man is being taken in by these mean and low tactics. He has brought down the prestige of his high office. His mother was of no political character and indulged in false promises and assurances like *Garibi Hatao* and *Berozgari Hatao*, i.e., removal of a poverty and unemployment, for which she moved not a finger to remove. His grandfather could never think of such low behaviour.

June 26, 1989

Dr. Chopra has written that he has returned from London after collecting some material there. He wants me to give a date for a meeting at Delhi. I think I will give him after the middle of next month.

June 28, 1989

On phoning to Kiran he informed me he has begun foundation for the house. To whom shall I convey this glad news. She would have been so happy. How I miss her at every step and every day.

July 8, 1989

As per Samar Guha's wish and request I am writing a letter to U.S.S.R. President Gorbachev to inform us about Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as he known to have reached Russia after the 2nd World War instead of dying in an air crash. Prof. Guha has published a book about the subject giving convincing facts that he did not die in an air crash and the Govt. of India's two enquries under Nehru and Indira were not correct in their findings. He even suspects their bonafides. I am inclined to believe Guha. So I wrote to Gorbachev. I do not believe he will reply or I may be wrong.

July 16, 1989

Since early morning there was a fairly heavy drizzle and it

continued till about 4 p.m. May be in all 1". Made up my mind to phone to the Chief Ministers of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and request them to contribute towards Sardar Patel's Life Publications. They were contacted. Gujarat CM Chaudary said he would send Rs. 3 lakhs which he had already promised in Delhi. Sharad Pawar C.M. of Maharashtra also promised to contribute Rs. 3 lakhs. He was not aware of any previous requests from me. I told him I would remind him. Motilal Vora of Madhya Pradesh was not immediately available but to his Secretary, I told him, I will phone him tomorrow at 9.30 p.m. Haryana's Devilal was out of station and will be available on the 18th evening. On the whole successful night. I am sure I will get the contributions from Pawar and Chaudhary. I will try for the others.

July 17, 1989

Wrote a number of letters and feel tried. If I write much right shoulder pains. Age.

July 22, 1989

Since the Parliament opened 3 days back the opposition is making use of Comptroller and Auditor General's Report on Bofors and preventing the proceedings from going on and demanding that the PM should resign. On much smaller causes Lal Bahadur Shastri when there was a railway accident resulting in deaths, and Sanjeeva Reddy when there was a oblique reference against him by the A.P. High Court both resigned. These fellows now in the ruling party as ministers are shameless and aboslutely indifferent. They will never resign, they are there for themselves and not for the country or people. Most of the Ministers are like that except a very few. The members of the party are no better.

August 13, 1989

At dinner time Dr. Chopra and his wife came and spent more than an hour discussing many matters. He is a man very well informed on history past and present. His wife is quite intelligent and they have no children. I always felt whenever I see them they are a pair of loving birds.

August 17, 1989

All of a sudden Kiran has come and when I got up from my afternoon nap I see him in a *Jubba* and *Pyjama* made of *Khadi*. The fellow looks fine. He tells me he as come because his supreme leader and PM is coming to Chitradugra tomorrow and so he has come. I am not surprised. The whole day loudspeakers moving in authorickshaws are blaring the coming of Rajiv Gandhi tomorrow and people must come in thousands upon thousands. Empty trucks and police are gathering in hundreds and thousands, the one to bring people on a free ride from villages to swell the numbers and the other for security reasons. This is a new trend in Indian politics since Indira Gandhi's time. The loud speakers describing Rajiv Gandhi as ..... A fit son of a fit mother. It is true that the son is imitating his mother in dishonesty, untruth, power madness, unscrupulousness etc. They are inherited by the son. But these are considered virtues.

August 18, 1989

He came and he went. I was told the PM indulged in abusing the opposition parties all through his speech. Should be true he has nothing to his credit that is constructive and nation building. So his only forte is in abusing the opposite parties who are nothing better. They in turn abuse him in similar form. For they have nothing constructive to place before the people and indulge similarly. Unfortunate India.

August 24, 1989

Rajanna today bought a T.V. set and had it fixed in the hall this evening. I was not enthusiastic. He said Parakka is here and let her have it. It has cost him Rs 12,000/- a heavy amount.

September 1, 1989

I have to send an article about Jawaharlal Nehru. The letter requesting for it expects from the way it is written that I must write very much praising him. No doubt the deserves prise on many things he thought and did. But had he not many shortcomings, weaknesses, selfishness and ignorance of problems of the vast masses of people etc. I am thinking whether to send an evaluating article.

October 22, 1989

Had a press conference as arranged which began at 11 a.m. and went on till about 12.15. My main object was to appeal to all concerned regarding Babri Masjid and Ram Janma Bhoomi affair which is developing into frightful proposition and may even end in unseemly violence. That they may forget party communal difference and fundamentalism and in order to maintain unity and integrity of the nation to have in the disputed area Ram temple, a mosque, a church, a gurudwar, a Parsi temple, a Buddhist and a Jain temple. I do not know if in view of extreme communal passions people will agree. After I had spoken and made this appeal to the nation pressmen asked naturally about the present political parties and my opinion about them. I told them my views that no political party has any moral basis to get votes and except to throw mud at one another sp. the leaders. They had nothing constructive and all parties had lost every pretence to be called either democratic or honest.

I will be given to political opinions than to my appeal for the Masjid and Ram fued.

November 25, 1989

Elections in Karnataka and elsewhere are over in many States yesterday and are going on today and tomorrow. Possibly they will be all over by tomorrow evening at least some trends as to which party is likely to be in the lead. To me it looks considering very bad way in which States and Central Governments have behaved, the amount of corruption of most ministers from the PM downwards to the members of Parliament and State Assemblies and Councils, untold corruption, delay, inefficiency, indifference, lethargy, delaying the administration everywhere, no party in power anywhere will be returned to power. Exception may be West Bengal. I am not sure I do not know Sikkim. It is good if it happens. It will be a compliment to the people, the voters.

November 26, 1989

By evening some radio news began to come in. The trends seem to be in Karnataka. The Dal of Ramakrishna Hegde seems to be trailing very much behind and the Congress (I) is having a definite lead in most of the Assembly Constituencies. That also seems to be the case regarding the Lok Sabha Constituencies. It would be not so bad and may be no party will gain an absolute majority.

In the North the results seem to be the reverse, the Cong (I) lagging behind and the B.J.P. and Dal getting stronger and stronger. Congress (I) will not certainly get a workable majority. Could it be that in the North people have been seeing the disqualifications or defects of the Congress (I) from closer quarters than the South and vice versa. I desire that all the parties in power should lose and this unbelievably corrupt, dirty Govt. and selfish bunch of ministers should

be kicked out. I am using strong language. The feelings are acute from what I have been seeing and reading.

December 1, 1989

V.P. Singh was unanimously elected as leader of the National Front consisting of the Janata Dal, the biggest party, the B.J.P. next biggest, the two Communist Parties and quite few other parties having 3, 4, 2, 1 members each. There are about 25 independents. One does not know their inclinations. I wish they form a group and function in a manner to be effective by having a common objective, of course. The Cong (I) is the biggest but their leader has accepted defeat and has accepted the will of the people. Anyhow I say again, the defeat of Cong (I) is a good riddance of bad rubbish. Its history since it took birth in 1969 in an atmosphere of indiscipline, untruth, dishonesty, cheating and all the political sins, it has nothing to its credit since then till now regard had to the interest mainly of the citizens, the unemployed, therefore the poor, illiterate and unenlightened.

December 2, 1989

The new P.M. V.P. Singh made his first broadcast speech on the radio at 8.15 p.m. first in Hindi and then in English. It was good. He has not had an inviting voice but he is earnest and sincere. He holds out hope that the rural problems will be duly attended to and half the budget will be devoted to the villages, the rest of it, to eradication of corruption. Foreign policy, bringing down prices, appeal to youth, problems of Panchayati Raj were correct and very much to be welcomed. Only he must be helped and given full cooperative by his party members and other parties. I wish he will succeed. It is now to be welcomed that a bad Government is ended.

December 4, 1989

Yesterday I had sent a telegram to V.P. Singh greeting him and saying having Gandhian constructive programme was necessary. Today I wrote a confirming letter and telling him that I will write what I feel after a month as he will be too busy for a month by which time he will be firmly in the saddle. Till now he has not announced his cabinet. Possibly he is in an effort to rope in other parties. It is good if B.J.P. joins. But they may be playing their game. Also they have to support the ministry even otherwise if on any account of their opposition if the present ministry goes, they will not get even the seats they have now. My feeling is it will be in the saddle for at least two years inspite of Cong(I) attempt to dislodge it. They will do their worst.

December 5, 1989

Papers announce that Hegde has been appointed Dy. Chairman of Planning Commission. I think he will do well. Shall I write to him.

December 6, 1989

Veerendra Patil has announced his Cabinet of 10 members and also one State Minister. They have taken their oath. I find that most of them have not had good reputations and he has taken his old friend Rajashekhar Murthy. Also Aziz Sait, Moily, Mrs Madhwaraj and others. They should realise people will not tolerate corruption and they have an opposition party in the Centre. Let us wait.

Local correspondent of *Samyukta Karnataka* Basavaraju came to me and wanted a statement for 'Hindu' paper regarding the new Government. I gave him a fairly long statement, complimenting the people of India, welcoming the new Government, expressing contempt for the outgoing, also stating that Cong (I) in the North failed as also other

parties failed in South mainly because of people's disgust at the corruption which people experienced at their hands. Expressed hope of better and honest govt. which will prevent corruption and give priority attention to Agriculture, Irrigation, Cottage Industries and a review of public undertakings.

December 17, 1989

The new Parliament is meeting tomorrow when the President will address the Joint Houses in Central Hall. This is a welcome change. I only wish V.P. Singh will be given a chance to carry on his Govt. He seems to have begun well. He is introducing bills like making Radio and T.V. autonomous, take steps to control prices etc. It is no doubt a refreshing change.

December 28, 1989

The new National Front V.P. Singh Govt. is trying to stick to its election promises and introducing T.V. and Radio Bill and Fundamental Right to information and other Bills in Parliament as promised. They are also trying to bring down prices of essential commodities. It seems as though they may succeed. But I am not sanguine about the cooperation of the merchantile community. They usually do not have sufficient sense of national interests and service to the poor in their scheme of things, but so for have been of self interest entirely. The Govt. have been in a way with them as they want their money.

The year has come to a close. India has this year shown that inspite of more than 60% illiteracy, people who have enjoyed or experienced democracy know how to kick out a bad govt. In northern India where Cong(I) Govt. was ruling in majority of States and was also in the Centre has been convincingly defeated. The same has happened everywhere

in South India where other parties were ruling like Janata Dal in Karnataka, Telugu Desham in Andhra and others in Kerala and Tamilnadu. They have been defeated and Cong(I) has won. Not that the winning parties are favoured but the corrupt inefficient parties are kicked out . It is not favouring the good but kicking out the evil. I am happy this has happened. Bad parties in fact all that were bad are punished by the common voter. This time the young between 18 and 20 have become voters. That is also significant. I had pleaded as Cong. President as far back as 1968 that they must be given the voting right. Let us see how these chastened parties and their Govts. behave. What of myself. I have a feeling I may not outlive. I would be glad if I do and continue to serve the county's poor and unemployed.

January 1, 1990

A significant day. I except desirable changes in India due to change in the Central Govt. They have begun well. They have understood the situation and the circumstances in which they have come into power and the exceptions of the people who expect a change for the better in comparison with the corrupt wretched Rajiv Govt. Non-Congress Govts, I expect, should behave better in their own interest. The world situation is none too happy. The only silver lining is Russian President Gorbachev. I think where Gandhi was the biggest in the 1st half, the last decade of the 20th century and of the 2nd millenium is evenly significant and full of exceptions.

I do not know whether I will live to see the 1st of the year 2000. I would love to.

March 1, 1990

From morning almost every hour results of elections are coming in. By evening it is clear that except in Maharashtra

whose results are totally to be published tomorrow, the BJP seems to be winning along with Dal in half the States. It is rather not desirable that BJP should succeed, but because of the attitude of Congress (I), its lapse and the growing communal feelings, it has not the ghost of a chance in any State except Maharashtra. Since the days of its founder Indira Gandhi it has been so self-centered, dishonest, undisciplined, corrupt that it does not deserve to continue. It has taken all years for people to realise. Though promising so at first he has made things worse by his inefficient and inept handling of vital problems of the State. But we must watch the succeeding governments carefully. I wish people will do so. Today for the first time for this year I hear with joy the fellow singing away the Cuckoo.

March 25, 1990

Mani Ben Patel died in Ahmedabad today. A great daughter of a great father Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. How dutifully and with what care and affection she served and protected him till his death. I am sure he would have died earlier but for her care.

March 27, 1990

Today this year named Pramoduta is our New Year Day "Ugadi" meaning beginning of Yuga. Only we and Andhra celebrate it. It is calculated on the Moon's movements. From this morning I have been thinking of her. Every year this day she would always present me with a new *Khadi dhoti* and a *Khadi Jubba (jacket)*. Both of us wore only Khadi, I since 1921 and she since she came to me in 1927. Sitting on the big verandah of my house in the evening I was sorrowfully thinking of her when my nephew Basavaraju's two daughters of 5 and 3 in their new dress happily danced and laughed about like two butterflies. That changed my mood and began to feel how happy and beautiful the

universe was, the sky, the trees, the hills round about, the setting sun and the people in their new dresses Sp. women and children. Was not a part of this universe various forms of energy all these years. Am I not going to be a part of this very soon and has not wife already become a part of this, of the five elements. Am I not soon joining her and both of us together inseparable part of this? Why sorrow?

March 30, 1990

Posted letters to the Prime Minister, his Personal Secy., Dr. Chopra regarding fixing a date by the PM for releasing the 1st Volume of Sardar Patel. Later at about 5.30 p.m. got a phone call from Chopra that the PM has given a date 25th April at 4.30 p.m. It is as I wished. Chopra also is satisfied. I have to make arrangements to go to Delhi possibly a day or two earlier.

April 10, 1990

Of the 3 persons the Kashmir University V.C., his secretary and Khera, H.M.T. Branch Manager in Kashmir, who were kidnapped by terrorists or secessionists, the last Khera was murdered as announced by radio this evening. One does not know what is the fate of the other two. Pakistan seems to be bent upon mischief and is interfering in India's affairs purposefully as can be seen by the PM Mrs. Bhutto's radio statements. Do they mean war? It should make us worry. The PM V.P. Singh is no doubt making necessary statements. Is that sufficient? We may have to decide soon. Depends on developments.

April 14, 1990

Today is Dr. Ambedkar's 99th birthday. He was posthumously awarded Bharat Ratna Award. His wife received it in Delhi. Govt. of India has declared a holiday and every where there is a special arrangement made for

meetings. I inaugurated the meeting in Rotary Club. Speeches were made. Half a dozen Harijan youths sang some protest songs. Rather crude. I liked them because they were protesting against a millennium of oppression.

April 25, 1990

Went to the Parliament Annexe 15 minutes in advance and remained in the air conditioned hall till 8 p.m. V.P. Singh came at 4.30 garlanded him with the Sandal Garland purchased yesterday and took him to the dias of the function of releasing the 1st Volume of Sardar Patel's Collected Works. There was introduction by Chopra, welcome speech by me as Chairman of Sardar Patel Society. Spoke for 15 minutes about Sardar's achievements as one responsible mainly for integration and unity of the country. 3 others made short speeches. Then P.M. read written speech and finally promised to help the Society as urged by me. Hitendra Desai thanked. Had tea. Came back at 6. Bommai, Rajasekharan saw me at 8.30 p.m.

April 26, 1990 *Delhi*

First to come for breakfast was Raja Dinesh Singh, former Minister with Indiraji. He analysed the present unhappy situation. Felt BJP may not allow this Front Govt. to run all the way. May create situation and months of May and June may be critical. He felt a National Govt. may be necessary and for that some important persons who is excepted could take the initiative to bring together leaders of all parties. He felt sorry C. Subramaniam has accepted to be Governor. I agreed with him in this matter. He felt Rajiv from what I could gather is unreliable, speaks well, agrees and does quite the opposite while Sanjay was more reliable and would have made better PM. He thinks that the Communists were responsible for mine and Indira's talks failing in 1969. He was frank and his concern was for the country. According

to him Bhindranvale was purposely encouraged by Indira Gandhi and the present trouble began from them.

Then Bansilal of Haryana my old chela came and spent half an hour. He complained of Indira Gandhi's way of functioning, bribery, etc. He wants to carry on propaganda against Devilal and his son on a non-party basis forming a new party. He was bitter against them for pestering people to give money, transfer property, etc. Advised him to have a wider national outlook. He has been very courteous and reverential.

Then Dr. Chopra and we decided that we may prepare a plan to what all we have to do to get a building in Delhi, lands etc., and asked Chopra to prepare it. In the afternoon Chopra phoned to say that Min. for Urban Development would be contacted. His secretary phoned me that the minister would contact me. He did not. We have to write to him as I am leaving tomorrow morning.

In the evening at 6.15 Sadiq Ali came and spent an hour. We discussed the present situation and both of us felt that BJP has to be carefully watched as to its activities. He agrees. It would be desirable to bring other parties together. He is a patriot and has done much for the Congress. As Secy I found him loyal and fine. Later the new Minister Chimanbhai Metha phoned to me and promised he would do everything possible to help Sardar Patel Society. He was very appreciative of our programmes.

April 28, 1990

At 9 Sri D.P. Mandelia, the right hand man of G.D. Birla and well known industrialist and businessman, came to me with a basket of fruits and expressed his happiness that he had the opportunity to see me after long years. He was very

deferential. I was equally happy to see him. He thinks I am a saint. Funny!

June 7, 1990

The statement by PM Sri V.P. Singh that he is not against a National Govt. for India two days back on his way back from Kaula Lampur has drawn unnecessary comments from all parties. He seems to be too clever trying to feel all pulses. Personally I think it is not only not necessary but impractical at this stage. There are no grounds even accordingly to the Constitution for a National Govt. I think the present Govt. will last for quite some time.

June 18, 1990

As arranged held a press conference, only a few correspondents important ones attended. I dealt with communal and caste differences. I strongly expressed that backwardness must not be decided on castes etc., but on economic standards which I have been urging since 10 years and more about corruption, of assets, accountability, and nature of punishment.

July 12, 1990

At 10.30 went to Sadiq Ali's house and met him and his wife was down with fever and cough. Talked for many things sp. of Sardar Patel Society Trust. Bhasani Ramasharma came & took a letter to CM V. Patil for MLC nomination. He and his wife are old freedom fighters and social workers known in Shimoga district. Had good 1 ½ hours sleep after lunch. Felt good. Roop Narayan, Secretary, A.I. Prohibition Council met me at 6.30 p.m. We had half an hour's talk about prohibition, Sardar Patel, Govt. financial help, etc. He wants my co-operation and help. I have assured him. He will write to me.

At 7.30 Dr. Chopra came and we had a long talk till 9 about the work we have to do for the Sardar Society, collection of funds, getting a building from Central Govt., further publication, collecting relevant people. We tried to contact Minister Chimanbhai Mehta, Murasoli Maran and Dand awate. They were not available. I had my dinner, fruits and milk. He left at 9.

July 13, 1990

At 9 a.m as expected Chopra came and informed me about the several letters that have to be sent to Chief Ministers and others and got my signatures. I usually get them read and sign. I sign also on dotted lines as I have ample faith in him. We talked about several matters, historical and otherwise. Shivaji, Tipu, Mahabharata serial, Rama, Krishna, etc. He left me at 11. Before Chopra came Sri Advani, President BJP phoned. I told him we must get financial help for Sardar Society from M.P., Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan.

July 14, 1990

Had the meeting with only 4 other members attending. We decided not to trouble the PM. now re. the house for Sardar Patel Society as he will be in tension as a Cabinet Minister has resigned on an account of his undersirable Dy. PM Devilal's son Choutala becoming CM of Harayana again. We decided on all the subjects except meeting PM which we postponed to first week of August. Unhappy developments. V.P. Singh offers to resign, Cabinet meeting tonight. Situation to be anxiously watched. Unfortunate. Tonight's news show every party leader, public men want V.P. Singh to continue, all rushing to New Delhi for the meeting tomorrow morning. Devi Lal has no regreats, he thinks his son is duly elected. Undesirable.

Things in Delhi are none too happy and a definite crisis has developed. Very much depends on V.P. Singh. The only remedy seems to be to have this offending Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal removed from the Cabinet. I am sure it will be very much welcomed by all right thinking men. Leaders of J. Dal and National Front and other supporting parties seem to have gathered in Delhi and hectic activity is on regarding Devi Lal's misbehaviour and the consequences. It is quite certain that the man has misbehaved. His continuation as Dy. PM is fraught with grave consequences to the ruling front. They have been doing well.

August 13, 1990

At about 11.30 a.m Minister for Human Resources Metha came and was with me for 15-20 minutes. He assured that he would speak to PM regarding a building for Sardar Society Golden Jubilee Celebration. Impressed me as being earnest and efficient.

September 12, 1990

Chopra phoned at 9.30 and informed that the interview with PM is at 1.30 in South Block. Hope we will get what we want, a building for Sardar Society.

September 25, 1990

11 a.m Radio Station Director General of Bhadravati and Chitradurga new station in all 7 people came and wanted me to speak of my experiences on freedom struggle and other experiences in 4 sittings in their station building and they would record my talk to be broadcast in 4 radio talks on different dates in next month of Nov. I agreed and told them I would be ready tomorrow at 10 and thereafter for 3-4 days. They said they would give Rs. 500/- for each talk,

Rs. 2000/- in all. For a poor man like me it is attractive. A thousand Rupees is a big amount to me. I have a little in the bank. My income from all sources, pension and interest, in all Rs. 2500/- or thereabout and as my expenses come to that, I can save little. But why should I worry to save, for whom?

October 2, 1990

Gandhiji's Birthday 2nd Oct. Radio stations are full of news of him. Celebrations are held everywhere. Prayers are offered. The President, the PM, the vice President, leaders of parties go to his samadhi, offer flowers, participate dutifully in prayer, etc. But how many of them are serious of following him. The whole world celebrates his birthday and remembers him. It looks we have forgotten him. Most are untrue to him and neglect his teachings. This has happened ever since his death. Even during the one year before his death the leaders in charge of Independent India began to disrespect him and more his ideals. More pity!

Today also is Lal Bahadur Shastri's birthday. Another great son of India who within a very short period of 19 months as Prime Minister did more to India than the great Nehru did in as many years as far as administration is concerned.

October 6, 1990

Veerendra Patil steps down as CM. This morning's paper brings news that Davanagere had riots yesterday and about 12 people were dead, 8 by police firing and 4 by people among one another as happens during riots. It has arisen out of the Ram Rath procession. Held a press conference giving my opinion about Babri Masjid, Ramajanma Bhoomi, Mandal Report & aftermath of Ram Rath Communalism. All India Radio at 2 p.m. announced Veerendra Patil steps down and a new leader will be elected on Wednesday.

Rajiv Gandhi leader of Cong (I) is in Bangalore since yesterday.

October 26, 1990

Last two days B.J.P. has been creating trouble, firings, communal clashes re. Rath Yatra of Rama and arrests. We may expect worse things as BJP, RSS and VHP have become close knit and trying to get the Hindu Chauvanism upper hand in India. I have a feeling, it is all due to Brahmins mischief.

October 29, 1990

There is lot of disturbances, arrest, violence, more so in U.P where Masjid and proposed Ram Mandir are situated. One must congratulate Yadav. The CM of U.P. for his bold stand. My feeling and contention is the BJP a purely Hindu political party, wanted to have a Hindu State in India and therefore expected V.P. Singh's Govt. to help them demolish the Masjid and build a Ram temple and assert their supremacy. It is evident the BJP and VHP and RSS are all one and parts of the same attempt to have a Hindu theocratic State. I have a further feeling could it be that Brahmins having lost their hold over the people as priests since millenia and enjoying superior place in society, having lost age-old hold over the people as priests since millenia and enjoying superior place in society, having lost age-old hold over princes, having lost their monopoly or Govt. jobs and losing since non-Brahmins asserted themselves and now being often ridiculed and the whole lot are thinking of resuming their former position and this Ram Janmabhoomi affair is a beginning in that effort. This must be made clear. They usually bring about communal trouble. The common man must be made to realise this.

November 3, 1990

Things are happening in Delhi which may mean anything, even I think mid-term poll for Lok Sabha.

March 6, 1991

Evening news as expected as to the happening in Parliament since yesterday that Chandrashekar and his Govt. have resigned and the President has accepted. Shall I say "good riddance of bad rubbish" To me all the parties today are rubbish and any other Govt. is welcome instead of a Govt. by any party now existing. I wish the President will order fresh elections. He has no alternative in the present situation. I also wish if that happens a Non Party Govt. which Jai Prakash Narayan had wished for some years will be established as every political party now existing is undesirable. Though V.P. Singh's party seems acceptable. Let us see. I feel better, less tired and had my usual walk.

May 11, 1991

Election heat as one can see from the radio news is growing good. But which of the parties is any good. The worst according to me is the BJP with its Hindu fundamentalism and backing by Vishwa Hindu Parishad, R.S.S, Shiv Sena, etc. I wish they will do as badly as they have done in the last elections. Of the others, the only party which is particularly free from corruption are the communist parties. Of the others there will not be any of them singly to get the required majority. I wish even now they come together and agree to common candidates and withdraw others. Besides that all their so called leaders should either withdraw if possible or give an undertaking not to stand for the ministership but educate the masses.

May 22, 1991

Horrified to learn on waking up that Rajiv Gandhi PM and

President Congress (I) Party was killed last night in Bomb Blast in a village near Madras 50 Km. away. Most unfortunate. A dastardly cowardly crime. About a dozen persons seem to have all died. Told press people Mafia is ruling the roost in India. People and Govt. should be doubly careful. Necessity of peace is imperative. Law and order should be maintained. Delicate situation. Culprits should immediately be brought to book, exposed and deterrently punished. 5-6 press people had come. Told that my heart goes out to Rajiv's wife and children and I cannot find words to express my condolences. I feel and expect violence will follow.

August 19, 1991

It is a sad day for the world the Russian leader Gorbachev is no longer its leader and has been out in favour of a man who is believed to be conservative. A few months back another leader who believed in private enterprise & democracy was elected as the Secretary of the Party while Gorbachev continued as President. We must watch for reactions the world over and in Russia itself. Having tasted benefits of an open society I think people will not tolerate going back to pure communism. This is a situation for a close watch.

August 22, 1991

It is with the greatest happiness that I am recording in my diary that the Russian coup against Gorbachev is broken and 8 of the 9 leaders are arrested and one of them committed suicide. The whole world is rejoicing, the exception possibly being the Chinese Govt. and party. Gorbachev has returned to power.

September 24, 1991

I have resigned the Presidentship of the Karnataka Hindi

Prachar Samithi and want to similarly with regard to other memberships and Trusts. But I cannot immediately do so in the case of the Sardar Patel Society which I have taken so much pain and trouble to build up till now during the last 3 years or so. I am so far the only person who has been active while Dr. Chopra has carried on research and writing the history of Sardar Patel. I have to seriously think. I want to finish the work of publishing the volumes and a get a suitable building for the purposes of the Society. I wish the Central Govt. will also realise its duty in the memory of Sardar. These 3 years they have been indifferent. I am sorry.

October 5, 1991

Ram Nath Goenka owner of Indian Express died in Bombay in his building and his body brought to Madras for funeral. A great loss to the journalist world. A great fighter, bold fighter who stood for principles, standards and decisions. A close friend.

November 16, 1991

By the end of the evening learnt that the PM P.V. Narasmiha Rao already takes a lead in votes and is sure to win. It look as though Cong (I) may win some seats though not get a majority by filling the gap. It is good if they become a majority as Rao is a man of principles so far as I know and his hands may be strengthened and he may be able to get out of the pro-Nehru coterie.

January 2, 1992

As scheduled went to Rashtrapati Bhavan at 12.30, affectionately welcomed by the President Venkatarman as usual. Told him about my desire to meet leaders of Parties. There were economists of all castes or communities to consider the unhappy situation in the country. He was in agreement. He expressed his unhappiness about the

communal developments of now. When he talked to some people (BJP) he has found fault with the press though agreed and about a building for Sardar Society. He said he had talked to the PM about my requests.

February 4, 1992

Went to my old friend Deshdhara's house where I had lunch with Rajmata of Gwalior. Quite a large number of people were invited. She is an intelligent and interesting conversationalist. I told her about Sardar Patel's Publication I had sponsored. She agreed with me and wanted to speak to Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh that he may contribute towards it. She was in agreement with me in this respect. People here has lot of contempt for Shankar Dayal Sharma, Vice-President, who I am told is making attempt to become President of India. I think he is not a desirable candidate.

February 6, 1992 *Bombay Raj Bavan*

Got up at 7 and at 8.30 had my breakfast served. At 9.15 Governor C. Subramaniam came to my room and we spent 45 minutes regarding more broadminded approach to religious references in the Bhavan's Journal instead of being confined to Brahmins mostly, Brahmin *swamys* and *mutts*. We discussed political problems and others. I also told him people especially old journalists were anxious to know from me about the present Vice-President Shankar Dayal Sharma. Spoke of his disloyalty to me, how he betrayed me when he was my Secretary when I was Congress President. The Governor showed no reaction. He also showed no reaction when I told him both in Bombay and Bhopal had invited him to be President. Immediately he left. Ramakrishnan, Ex-Secretary of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan came and spent 15 minutes eulogising my services etc. He himself suggested Subramaniam for Presidentship.

February 26, 1992

Phoned Dr. Chopra and told him that tomorrow morning at about 10 to take the presents to be offered to Prof. Wolpert of California who is I learn already here to deliver his series of lectures on Sadar Patel from 4th to 6th next month.

February 27, 1992

Sadiq Ali came at 9 and informed of a meeting in Hegde's House at 5 p.m. regarding the 2nd-3rd conference. Dr. Chopra and his wife had talked about the programme regarding Sardar Society, Dinner on 5th in honour of Prof. Wolpert, his lectures on 4th, 5th & 6th. He is coming to me tomorrow at 9 in the morning. He has collected material for Sardar's biography regarding Nehru's attitude to Sardar. Then at 11.30 S.N. Mishra came and discussed details of the conference on 2nd and 3rd, food arrangements, one lunch in Karnataka Bhavan and other in Gujarat Bhavan on 2nd and 3rd.

March 4, 1992

At 5 p.m. went to India International Centre, Lodi Estate for Prof. Wolpert's Lecture on Sardar Patel. We, Sardar Patel Society, have invited him. After tea we have quite a large attendance, majority of them historians. On Chopra Secretary's request Gyani Zail Singh released the 2nd Volume and made a speech. I then as Chairman made an introductory speech for 10 minutes. P. Upendra Ex-M.P. presided and introduced Prof. Wolpert. Prof. Wolpert made a good speech on Sardar for 45 minutes.

April 4, 1992

Received a phone call from S. Ramakrishnan of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan that I may speak to P.V.Narasimha Rao about the Presidentship and enquire about my letter to PM about

C. Subramaniam and that Palkhiwala is very much interested in going to Delhi and that he speak to BJP leaders, Advani and others.

Booked a trunk call to PM and was told that he is busy the whole day and I may try tomorrow morning. Ramakrishna phoned and I told him to phone tomorrow morning. I am not sure as to on whom the choice falls. There may be too many pulls and pressures. Also it is not certain how the States may behave. My own opinion is Subramaniam would be the best.

April 25, 1992

Chopra phoned from Delhi about my concern for my letter to be delivered to PM regarding 113, Kaka Nagar building. He gave me phone numbers of PM Jaffer Sharief, Sheila Kaul, Urban Minister. BJP Leader Advani speak to them about Kaka Nagar building. I phoned to Prime Minister and got him at the 2nd attempt. Told him how unhappy I was about the building having been allotted to Sardar Vallabhabai Society, now having to be vacated and rent paid has upset me. He told me he has not received any telegram or letter that some mistake has been made and may be due to steps being taken against unauthorized occupation and he will look into it immediately.

June 16, 1992

As per the phone from Bangalore, the representative of the daily newspaper which appears at noon came at 10.30 and had nearly 3 hours interview with me. I had no special work and allowed him to go on. Spoke to him about the all round deterioration after 1969, Nehru's contribution towards misapplied Socialism.

His daughter's all round want of character which has contributed materially to this deterioration, corruption in

Govt. etc., Hegde's contribution, Bangarappa's hopeless bad rule etc., He was particular to know about Shankar Dayal's fitness for Presidentship. He seemed to know about Sharma's part in bringing about the situation at the time of the split between me and Indira Gandhi. Except saying he was one of the Secretaries and his denial of any part at that time I have said nothing else. When asked about C. Subramaniam I wholeheartedly expressed myself in his favour.

August 4 ,1992

The PM sent his car and I was with him for about 45 minutes, told him of the National Consensus and gave the corrected papers. Spoke to him of the Sardar Patel Trust and the pending of title to the property house 7, Jantar Mantar Road from the old AICC to the Trust. He said he is not in anyway interested in the Trust property and I may write to him in detail. Told him the necessity to give a larger building for the Sardar Society and of the long standing request. Also told him of the neglect of the Sardar's name in Delhi and of no memorial. Told him I will write for a building. I found the PM though courteous was a bit formal which I did not like. He took very courteous leave. He again reminded me to write. Phoned to Pranab Mukherjee, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. He has promised to come to me tomorrow at 4. K. C. Pant and lady are coming for breakfast on 5th.

Dr. and Smt. Chopra came and discussed how to proceed regarding Patel Society building from the PM and to take a bold stand.

October 25, 1992

I have a feeling these days that my days are getting over, nothing much remains. After 75 S.K. Patil was humorously saying we are living on bonus days and be prepared to just

pass off. That is correct. I am ready to just pass off and become part of the universe, ash to ash, air to air, water to water, space to space, energy to energy and merge so completely. No to re-birth. This idea of past life and future return, just imagination. It has hoodwinked the ignorant.

December 6, 1992

It was expected something would happen but not much. But today's evening news appeared that the reactionary Hindu demonstrators in considerable number destroyed the Babri Masjid. This was against the understanding that *Kar Seva* would be formed. What has happened is treachery and cheating. This is an unexpected misbehaviour. I am sure by tomorrow we will hear the news that B.J.P. Government will be dismissed and President's Rule will replace B.J.P. Rule. That I felt would be correct. Leaders would be arrested and the Muslims highly emotional as they will not tolerate this insult to their mosque and will do all sorts of violence throughout the country and I shudder to think what will happen, how may houses would be burnt, vehicles destroyed and how unhappy hundreds of people of both Hindus and Muslims will be. I have a feeling, that though Muslims are most favourably surprised and determined to hit back Hindus also may be prepared to do likewise. Anything may be expected. The Rao Government has not been efficient and not been fully strong.

February 23, 1993 *Chitradurga*

It is a matter for satisfaction and happiness that India has won again and has won all the 3 tests the last two by innings. They have done generally well this year. Parliament has begun its Budget Session. Yesterday Parliament has begun and the party in power Congress has taken a strong attitude against this undemocratic and evidently BJP party. They deserve it. I am sure it is the attempt of the Brahmin clique

to get power by easily misleading the innocent loose, amorphous so called Hindu community by appealing to their religious and anti-muslim sentiment. That is quite evident by the fact the fundamentalists, of Viswa Hindu Parishat, RSS and Shivasena are its mainstay and evidently so.

February 26, 1993 *Chitradurga*

The BJP have been creating trouble both in Parliament and State legislatures in both houses for their failure to hold Rally at Delhi. They deserved the beating at the time. I wish they are prosecuted and duly punished, for what happened on 6th Dec for demolishing the mosque and disobeying prohibitory orders. I read novels one hour or so daily whenever I got tired of reading or writing. In fact I got tired fairly soon and this is a relief. I am sorry India last to England in the one day cricket match at Bangalore.

March 12, 1993 *Chitradurga*

Horrified that bomb blasts in Bombay killed 174 people and a thousand injured most of them in Stock Exchange building. In this unfortunate country Mafia is on the increase. This is possibly the worst Bomb Blast. The Home Minister and the State Minister have rushed to Bombay from Delhi. What will they do. I am afraid there is a group of people who are operating.

March 13, 1993 *Chitradurga*

The death toll in Bombay blast has raised to 225. It is good that the blood needed for the large number of the injured is being not only donated in Bombay but in other States and people are waiting in queue. The criminal act is being suspected as by the anti-socials of India but in collusion with outsiders. May be true in view of the sophisticated

bombs. I hope they will be traced. Rs. 10 lakhs for informants.

March 17, 1993 *Chitradurga*

It is be seriously considered that another Bomb Blast in Calcutta, yesterday night has killing about 50 and injured hundred. There seems to be a foreign attempt with bad elements' co-operation in India. There is a serious effort by Central Govt. to find the culprits. Good. That Foreign Govts. are also helping. I have a suspicion that Pakistan is involved.

April 9, 1993 *Chitradurga*

Huchamasthi Gowda, Minister for Agriculture came to me at 6 p.m and had talks with me for an hour or so re: subjects like Directive Principles, my pet subjects, agriculture, irrigation, disilting of tanks with the co-operation of people, etc., mostly devoted to villages. He complimented that at my age I am taking such important subjects, which involved the mass of people. I also mentioned to him of Kaveri, Krishna, Kalinadi, Mekedatu, division of river waters etc. He was happy to have been with me.

April 23, 1993 *Chitradurga*

The IAS has informed Govt. that no KAS officer should be a DC and only IAS people, as the KAS may not be honest. This seems funny. In the evening some important people came and wanted the D.C. to be retained. This D.C. has been complimented by previous Govt., the Supreme Court and the High Court for his meritorious services and called him the only silver-lining in a dirty dishonest cloud in which the officials wanted to dispose off crores worth Forest land for a song the Special Officer did all this by dint of hard work and so for his honesty. I wrote a letter to the Chief Minister Moily to retain him here for atleast 3 months.

May 15, 1993

Field Marshal Cariappa died early this morning at Bangalore where he was staying for quite a few years in the Military Hospital. He was the first Commander-in-Chief of the Army of Independent India. We knew each another quite well.

May 19, 1993 *Chitradurga*

Both for Parliament and for Legislative Assemblies from 6 States elections are held. A significant election. My own opinion is that Cong. (I) will succeed by and large. At 9.30 p.m Mahalinga Shetty from Bangalore phoned that about 8-9 friends want to hold meeting in Bangalore to constitute a Trust in my name. When I asked him why he said that a trust is being drafted. Persons like Badrinarayan, K.M.Nanjappa, Dr. Thimme Gowda, Shyamanur Shiva Shankarappa, Kore and one or two others are sponsoring it. I am personally not enthusiastic. What for I do not know. What have I done.

May 21, 1993 *Chitradurga*

Mahalinga Shetty and Chandra came from Bangalore at 8.30 and had breakfast and left after half an hour during which Shetty gave me two cyclostyled papers, one objectives of the Pratisthan Trust in my name and the other calling for a meeting at Bangalore on 6th May for that purpose by important persons, Justice Chandrasekhar, K.M. Nanjappa, Badrinarayan, Y. Ramachandra, Gangadhara Shetty, Dr. Thimmegowda, Shyamanur Shivashakarappa, Prabhakar Kore, and B.G. Javali. 31 objectives are mentioned. I said I will look into them. I do not know if it is necessary, this trust. Can I prevent it. They seem to have gone too far

May 22, 1993

Bye-election results-some have come in. Congress (I) seems

to have not done well. The BJP seems to have done better. This is not good. BJP should not win. If they win in the next general elections, it would be dangerous. In Karnataka Yalahanka seat has been retained by Congress (I) but has with only about 500 votes. Good as lost. A technical success.

June 11, 1993 *Chitradurga*

After phoning the Junior Jagadguru of the local Murugharajendra Swamy came at 5.30 p.m. and was with me for about an hour. I complimented him and admired for the way in which he went to Mysore district and tried fairly successfully to bring about amity and peace between Lingayats and Harijans who had committed murder and fight against one another in the open streets. He had met the Harijans and spoke to them and advised them to know that the Lingayats and Harijans were both sudras and could be friends, become relatives and intermarry. It is really bold and on his part to take that step. He seems to have partly succeeded. He wants to appeal to the people and know more about their problems. He wanted to know about irrigation. I told him I had great respect and admiration for him. The Senior Swamy was in agreement with him. We discussed vedas, Panchacharyas etc.

June 16, 1993 *Chitradurga*

They-some important friends and possible admirers of mine met in Bangalore some time back-a month ago and wanted to have a Trust in my name and to further my ideals and to follow my opinions and convictions in the service and development of the country and on 6th of this month have met at Bangalore and decided to continue the trust. Copy of the proposed trust has been sent to me.

There was lot of speculation on the statement of the Stock Broker the accused Harshad Mehta about alleged payment

to one important person and today he, it seems has said that he has paid one crore rupees to Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao who has denied it. This is probably false. At least if a fellow had said he has paid a hundred crores at least one could have believed. This I think is an attempt to disturb the ruling Govt. According to met this Govt. ought to go since has been managing the affairs of the country specially its finances bringing the country into the debt trap.

June 17, 1993, *Chitradurga*

Today it is the biggest scandal in the papers that Harshad Mehta has made a sworn statement in an affildavit that he has paid a crore of Rupees to Narasimha Rao PM giving details of amounts. I think it is a false affildavit. If he had stated the amount was somewhere near a hundred crores it could have been believed. A crore is too small. But BJP is making much of it. One thing is certain. The whole atmosphere is foul and no one seems to be honest either ministers, merchants, Bankers, Bureaucrats, most members of the Legislature any where, it is a party.

June 21, 1993 *Chitradurga*

PM Narasimha Rao's Congress (I) Govt. has finished 2 years of rule. Radio announced at 9.00 p.m that in most places demonstrations and meetings were held to highlight this Govt's achievements etc. It is possible it has succeeded. Though a minority, it has succeeded to remain in office. They have done neither badly nor well. But the important reason for their stay is not their strength but the fear of other parties to have fresh elections. Every member thinks of himself and all of them together think alike. The only party, which seems to be really serious, is BJP. But it is a dangerous party, which is popular with communal Hindus.

July 15, 1993 *Chitradurga*

Sorry I had to miss participating in the Public Meeting to mourn the death of Rev. Dr. A.V.Thomas. Being also a Rev. of the Christian Church, he was an Indian first and everything else next. He was the man mainly responsible for valuable Vigil India Movement, a paper most valuable from the point of view of Indian politics, economy, social problems and secularism. It is a real loss to India.

July 19, 1993

That Madhu Limaye has written a book in Hindi and it has been printed and that I may release it on 19th July. I also received the book by Regd.Post. I made up my mind to accept the invitation.

July 22, 1993 *Chitradurga*

The Tamilnadu Chief Minister Kumari Jayalalitha has broken her fast after 2 days and some hours which she had undertaken to get Cauvery water for Tamilnadu Crops. Her fast was wrong as Karnataka itself has no water in K.R.Sagar tank. There are not sufficient rains so far. In Tamilnadu Cinema actors and actresses are worshipped.

The ex.Actress, the present C.M. thought her fast would upset the world. Presumptuous woman!

July 26, 1993 *Chitradurga*

Phoned to Swamijis of Mysore and Tumkur to send the promised amount of 2 lakhs Rs. each. Their agents contacted and messages sent to them. I expect the help soon. Otherwise I have to send somebody or write them. I hope they will keep up their words.

The eagerly expected motions of no confidence has begun today in Lok Sabha and the speeches of the mover and his

supporter are interesting and it is no doubt from that the allegation against Narasimha Rao's Govt. are substantially true. But what about the accusers. According to me what about them they seem to be worse. Are they united? Hence, it may be any other thing or policies in common.

August 9, 1993 *Delhi*

Prof. Sondhi and Mrs. and son Vivek came at 2.30 and we went to Ashoka Hotel and saw the Dalai Lama in his suite on the 6th floor and spent an hour with him discussing the Tibetan problem and the dire necessity of India taking necessary interest in its liberation being not only our neighbour but has been influenced culturally a part of India. He knows I am presiding over the conference and is happy over it. He took a very affectionate leave of me embracing and touching our heads. I am having the letter of Sardar Patel to Nehru re: Tibet about 200 copies. Dr. Chopra is bringing them tomorrow.

August 11, 1993 *Delhi*

Jaffer Sherief came and took me in PM's car to the latter's house 7, Race Course Road and I was with him for more than half an hour. Sherief was also there. I told PM how the basic problems have been neglected and sp., the Directive Principles of State Policy, re. education, agriculture, cottage industries, evidence of concentration of power and of wealth. Pressed that reservation for Khadi Gharnioil, leather manufacturers etc.; may be reserved. He said he has purposefully appointed himself as Chairman of Khadi and will do what is necessary. Told him to point out to the Chinese Govt. when he visits China in the 1st week of next month. The necessity of solving the Tibetan problem and mentioned yesterday's function. He also mentioned with devotion Swamy Ramanand Thirtha when he was Secretary in Hyderabad State Congress, I also wanted he should hold

the Rly. Minister Jaffer Sheriff all help as he was doing good work and change of gauge to common Broad Guage.

August 27, 1993 *Chitradurga*

Papers are full of the fight with chairs, paper-weights etc., among the members of the Cong (I) Party Legislative members in their party meeting yesterday. This is the first time it has happened in Karnataka. Such unhappy, crude exhibitions are common in almost all States. The standard is of such low quality everywhere. Parties are more concerned in driving those in authority out and get in not to serve the people

But to help themselves. Pity.

September 30, 1993 *Chitradurga*

Astounding news that there was yesterday earthquake in Karnataka involving Belgaum, Dharwad, Bijapur and in Maharashtra.

We believed generally that South India has never suffered it as it is on the top of huge rock and can never suffer. Both considerable loss of property and a little of life has happened. But the worst suffering State is Maharashtra where more than 10,000 are dead and more injured and heavy property lost. Comparatively little has happened in Karnataka, Gujarat, Andhra and Tamilnadu. Glad immediate steps are being taken to alleviate the suffering.

October 1, 1993 *Chitradurga*

The tragedy of the yesterday earthquake is getting more and more horrible. The death toll seems to be above 20 thousand. It is possible it may be much more as in most villages and the towns houses have been flattened. It is to some extent satisfying that not only sympathy is expressed by western countries outside India but help is also

forthcoming. Such a thing has not happened since many years.

October 2, 1993 *Chitradurga*

This is Gandhiji's 124th birthday. How many remember him. Many may. But which govt. and ministers remember him. Few. But even less follow him, leaving alone agreeing with his view and his constructive programmes.

December 17, 1993 *Chitradurga-Bangalore*

Dayanand Swamy and Mahadevi Tayi elder sister of R.K. Hegde, wholly devoted to Gandhain Principles and is a staunch follower of Vinoba Bhave and 2-3 others, Jains met me in connection with the Abbattoir (?) Slaughter House situated and constructed newly and begun to run near Hyderabad, protesting against it and that I must enable Tayi to present a letter of protest through me to the PM Narasimha Rao tomorrow at the time of his address to the Freedom Fighters Conference over which I am to preside tomorrow evening. Some more people came, made kind enquiries and went.

December 18, 1993 *Bangalore*

The Freedom Fighters Conference of Karnataka was a good show. Nearly 200 had gathered and it was a sea of white Gandhi caps. I addressed them for about 90 minutes and explained to them, the necessity of fighting the present unhappy situation in the spirit that animated them during the freedom struggle and should organize there a movement and to that end subscribe a month's pension. They agreed and passed a resolution accordingly among others. Some of them paid there only. Other resolutions were passed. K.C. Pant, Financial Chairman also addressed the gathering. At 8.30 went to Gandhiji's statue and in front of it they all took an oath which I administered that they would serve

the country according to Gandhian principles, in the evening because of the Prime Minister's.

Address, the venue of the meeting was changed to the Central Hall of the Vidhana Soudha. All the Freedom Fighters attended. I presided. The PM and K.C. Pant and Sheela Bhadra Yogi addressed. The PM assured he would sympathetically consider their requests. He spoke for 20 minutes. K.C. Pant also spoke. The P.M. left after taking my permission. After that few Freedom fighters were rewarded. It was a good function and it made me happy.

December 20, 1993 *Bangalore*

Held a Press Conference, fairly well attended. I dealt with political parties participating in the Panchayat at all levels. They should avoid definitely all these elections and avoid dividing villages. I strongly pleaded for political parties to avoid them. Next I dealt with the Govt. treating with indifference, neglect and even contempt, the building Principles of State Policy which has resulted in fall in standards of living of the large majority, corruption, more than 25 years. Then the main resolution of the Political Sufferers Conference of fighting the present situation by unifying and working together and build up a fund by contributing a month's pension was passed. Few questions were asked. Went to a leader of the Lok Sabha party who is now an agent of Batas. He gave lot of information and a note re their nasty behaviour.

December 21, 1993 *Bangalore - Mysore*

At Veerabhadraiah's request went to his house and had my usual dinner. His wife, a descendant of the late Rao Bahadur Thotadappa who established the Thotadappas' Charities for poor Lingayat students in 1902 and in which I was a student for 4 years in 1920-1923, was so kind to me and we

discussed his greatness and of his relatives. Her father Chennasomanna was Thotadappa's adopted son's son. She gave many details and was proud to do so. We recalled many incidents of his life. Veerabhadraiah is also managing the hostel in Bangalore the old building near the Railway Station and has built many free hostels in Gubbi and other 3-4 places. He is also managing the H.H Shivarathri Jagadguru institutions. An able man. Got good sleep. A comfortable guest house.

December 31, 1993 *Chitradurga*

The last and final day of the 1993 is over. Is the world the human race any better than it was during the year. Definitely NO. There is inspite of the UNO it is worse. UN has achieved a little that is positive so far as social and related understandings are concerned. But politically very little. Misunderstanding, suspicions, mutual doubts are on the increase between nations. America is trying to override and dictate to the whole world. I feel soon enough it will learn lessons. India has gone down politically, socially, morally, more so economically. No political party is activated by moral standards. Few political leaders are activated by moral values. The recent elections mostly in Northern India are a pointer. Everything is a business, amoral business. The immediate future for India is very dark. For the World Human Society it is no better. I close with a pessimistic note.

January 1, 1994 *Chitradurga*

Suspicion, Hatred, Mafia, Cheating, Corruption are rampant everywhere, in every nation. One nation against the other international and intranational. Possibly India, my country with its boasted part is as bad as any other if not worse. I am one of the most unhappy men today due to the Human Degradation. Uncontrolled misuse of scientific research and

its misuse during the last two World Wars and inspite of their lessons to man, he has not learnt lessons. Pity, unless we turn towards man's moral destiny, mutual respect for human values, necessity to feel universal equality being recognized and respected, control of power of every sort, things are black. America should be the first to learn this lesson. They are too proud and because of their affluence feel they must rule the world. I am sure they will learn soon enough that it is necessary to be humble.

January 14, 1994 *Pa. Pu. Birthday Hubli-Chitradurga*

Patil Puttappa whose 73rd Birthday is being celebrated in a big way, came to me as usual touched my feet and had breakfast with us. The function which began in time was a very big function. The Hall Gandharva was full and it was a grand function. Quite a large number of garlands and presents were offered to him and his wife Indumathi. A number of people spoke eulogising his services sp. as a journalist and a fighter for Kannada since a long number of years, his bold editorship of Prapancha-Kannada Daily etc. I released the book presented to him by the Birthday Celebration Committee. Another by Puttappa himself by Minister Chandrasekhar (?). I spoke for half family, etc. I also spoke about my pet subject Directive Principles of State Policy and the present unhappy situation.

January 31, 1994 *Delhi*

Went to International Centre Building at 11 and found that the fairly big hall was full consisting of the elite of Delhi. Foreign representatives of U.K., Japan, Germany, etc., along with the Govt. servants including Secretaries. After Welcome by Prof. Sondhi T. N. Seshan made an exceedingly profound interesting speech on, 'Nobody above Law' full of hard hitting humour, corruption, illegalities in the elections, and how they have failed to serve their real purpose and It was

very much appreciated. He spoke for about 45 minutes. As Chief Guest and president, I complimented Seshan and spoke how Govt. have failed in implementing the Directive Principles of State Policies and its unfortunate results of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, ill-health, malnutrition, ungandhian approaches to national problems etc., and spoke for about 20 minutes was listened to equally with rapt attention. I blessed Seshan and wanted him to serve his country with his abilities and integrity and character for many many years, after retirement. He liked it and thanked me for my blessings.

February 28, 1994 *Chitradurga*

The eagerly expected Budget Speech of the Finance Minister Manmohan Singh for more than 1 ½ hours was announced. My feeling is though more attention and provision is made for rural development it is too inadequate considering that nearly 80% of the population are in villages and mostly depend upon agriculture and connected industries, more borrowing from foreign banks and getting ourselves into greater and stronger debt nets. It can be easily said Swadeshi as an ideal policy and that is dead. Even our leading industrialists are getting more and more involved in foreign capitalist nets. The Finance Minister is no doubt an honest man but it seems to me he is wholly foreign to Indian conditions and problems. Few people seem to think even among political party leaders about the vast majority of people, their poverty, unemployment and low standards of life. Pity .

March 8, 1994

Remembered many times today about my friend of many years, Allum Karibasappa. I was his guest at lunch and breakfast so many times whenever I visited Bellary. He owned a very large house which houses his big family of

about 10 children, half of them sons. It is called Gadgi Palace. It was his wife who was also an Assembly Member quite a long time ago who made the family popular. One of the noblest women I have seen. The whole population of the district respected her. She always spoke to me and addressed to me *"Appaiah"* "Father". I had great regard and respect for her. She passed away about 10 years ago.

March 9, 1994

This early morning Devika Rani one of most beautiful women and possibly the most known actress about 30-40 years ago passed away in Bangalore near which she had a big estate in which she grew a tree which yielded valued scent and kept as a secret for number of years. Her husband 2nd Roarich a Russian son of a great Himalayan painter Roarich and himself a great painter died 2-3 years ago. I had visited them and was very happy to be in the mist of Roarich's great paintings. She was herself an artist of beauty and culture. I had met her some times. It was always a pleasure. She was so kind. There seems to be some dispute about her property.

May 10, 1994 *Chitradurga*

This is a great day really when South Africa which was infamous for its Apartheid has become free and a black Nelson Mandela who was 27 years in Prison for fighting for Freedom on Equality is chosen as South African President and head of State and formed his government. His attitude as such is really good and indicative of his broad outlook, generosity and large heartedness. He does not suffer from narrow mindedness and forgets all the ills, he has suffered. He naturally remembers Mahatma Gandhi with gratitude. One wishes that S.A. will prosper and develop and will be an object lesson.

June 21, 1994 *Hubli*

Patil Puttappa came at 10 and we went on till 12 and again at 6 and went on till 7 from the days of my legal practice at Chitradurga including my life as a clubman, I told him incidents both as a lawyer and its Secretary and how I conducted some cases and as Club Secretary and how I opposed officers, presumptuousness and my slowly getting into Congress activities, my D.C.C. Presidentship, Forest Satyagraha, after serving in various capacities, Gandhiji's advice, becoming Congress Secretary of the P.C.C, the 1942 Quite India revolution, arrest both for Forest Satyagraha at Thuruvanur in 1939 and after 1942 Quit India revolution, my life in Jail both the times, my B.C. Chairman of 3rd Mysore Congress Session till finally becoming Karnataka P.C.C. President with quarters at Hubli. It was rather difficult to recollect all these experiences.

June 24, 1994 *Hubli*

Puttappa came in the morning and evening and took some notes. It happens, since he has a very fine memory he takes much time in digging into it and talking about old happenings. As we go along he takes down notes about my opinions and experiences with people and situations and activities and opinions along with his own.

June 25, 1994 *Hubli*

Puttappa came in the morning and evening. He particularly wanted to know about my Chief Ministership. I gave him details of my work as such in building on priority basis the construction of the Sharavathi Hydel Project, laying foundation for 6 major irrigation projects, Upper Krishna, Malaprabha, Ghataprabha, Harangi, Hemavati and many medium projects and many more minor irrigation project increasing the area under forests, my idea of infrastructure

for economic growth of irrigation, power and forests, my resignation of Chief Ministership in a huff and then again defeat in Hosadurga Assembly election etc. etc. My forced consent to be Congress President and my All India Tour of the country except U.P. Kashmir and 2 – 3 small States in N.E. Sardar's later liking for me and his accepting my recommendations. The Hyderabad enquiry and report by me about Hyderabad omits about atrocities against Muslims Sp. Women and of my report being accepted by Central Government and Hyderabad's temporary Government etc. etc.,

June 27, 1994 *Hubli*

Puttappa came at 10 and was with me till 12.30. Quite a number of things like Gopal Rao Enquiry Committee some instances of the Working Committee of the I.N.C., some members of my ministry, my being forced to accept Congress Presidentship etc., along with my experiences with Secretaries of Govt. when I was Chief Minister. For the present the interviews have stopped. Told him I will write if necessary.

July 14, 1994 *Delhi*

I was told about 10 lakhs had gathered for the foolish Rally and that as already informed there were no cutouts of Indira Gandhi and few of Rajiv Gandhi and huge ones of Narasimha Rao. It has become a fashion for advertisements. It looks as though Government means big business which can only do business by advertisements and PMs and CMs and other ministers are the objects for advertisements. True all these ministers from PM, CM, and all ministers are objects of advertisements. They are so and making huge monies for themselves and nothing doing either for country or people. Shameful. The worst seems to be the lady CM of Tamilnadu.

July 30, 1994 *Chitradurga*

Keladi Gunda Jois, who has made intensive and extensive research into the history of Rani Keladi channammaji and has spent all his life about 20 years and more, came yesterday evening and fixed today morning. Spent nearly 1 1/2 hours explaining his great amount of work and his anxiety to get help from the Central Government and through the help of M.Ps and Ministers. Gave four letters to him. Arjun Singh Minister, Shivraj Patil, Speaker, Rajasekhara Murthy, M.P. (Rayya Sabha) and Hanumanthapa M.P. (Lok Sabha). He has I think sufficient material for quite a few volumes. The history of the Keladi Dynasty is replete according to Jois with great achievements. Shivappa Naik is well known for his **Shivappanayakana shistu.** His daughter-in-law Rani Channamma's life is wonderful, her achievements glorious. This Jois has I think sufficient material for writing the history.

November 10, 1994 *Chitradurga-Bangalore*

Just before leaving for Bangalore learnt that K.V. Puttappa "Kuvempu" passed away in Mysore in his house. One of the greatest poets for all time. It is a great loss for Karanataka and Kannada language and literature. His Ramayana Darashana is a great poem and stands out as one of the greatest poem for all time. Rajanna has rendered it into prose which "Kuvempu" said it is as good as his own original. It is impossible to find his equal now and possibly for quite some time. He has written drama, small poems, novels, for children etc. Great loss. After his wife's death about 7-8 years ago he quickly degenerated and finally during the last 3-4 years was only a vegetable. Issued a statement which was announced in the radio at 2 p.m.

January 3, 1995 *Bangalore*

The function for which I have come namely that I unveil

the bust of "Kuvempu" the greatest literateur of Kannada who is most popular and respected and that another literateur should unveil the bust of Prof. "B.M. Shree" a great Kannadiga also a well known literateur, began in time with my function near the west gate of Lalbagh and the other near the National School was done with Pooja etc., by Brahmin Pujaris, later at 11 a.m there was a big gathering under a large shamiana was held. About 5-6 thousand people had gathered. Speeches were made by the Mayor, Minister for Finance Siddaramaiah, officiating for CM, H.D. Deve Gowda, myself and A.N. Murthy Rao. I made an unusually short speech which was no doubt appreciated. But I was not satisfied. We were given mementos. I was given a replica in wood of the bust I had unveiled. In the afternoon a large number of people came in groups. I specially welcomed a group along with the lady of the family of the 1942 struggle in which her family had suffered, hanged, she was herself in jail. A heroic family.

January 8, 1995 *Chitradurga*

As informed the V.C. Kannada University, Hampi accompanied by his wife came at 11 a.m with a request that I may agree to receive a doctorate from his University on the 15th of Feb. He had come all the way from Hampi and though I feel I do not deserve the Doctorate, I had to accept. The same has happened regarding "Kuvempu" University which is to come off on 22nd March. Funny I get doctorates. I do not know why I should get it at all. Any way it has come. Let it come.

March 7, 1995 *Bhadravati-Chitradurga*

We were at Holalkere at 10.15. There quite a few Muslims were waiting just to see me and pay respects. There I went to see the famous one pillar Mutt. *Yontikambadamata*. The central thick stone pillar has one end of a stone block of 8

slabs radiating in 8 directions and resting on 8 other pillars, the whole forming a Mantap. Possibly more than a 1000 years old. It is said that Thapasvis were living there. The outer walls have fallen. It is being repaired. Just by its side and nearby the Samadhi of Mallikarjuna Jagadguru who died a few months back is to be built as also schools, hostel, Kalyan Mantap etc., as wished by the late Swamy.

March 11, 1995 *De.J.Gow's 75th Birthday 6 p.m.*

I left with Manju to the Puttanna Chetty Town Hall. The hall was fairly full and the proceedings began in time with prayer and then friends spoke of Dr. Javare Gowda (Dejagow) popularly known as such, celebrating his 75th Birthday. A book commemorating his 75th Birthday was published. Dr. Javare Gowda gave a fairly long reply. I was getting worried about urination pressure. I took my own time to reply suitably and praised him and his wife, their hospitality, his great services as V.C. for Mysore University as one who has rendered great service to Kannada Literature and has himself a Literateur Finally appealed for proper literater to lift up the ignorant poor to become dissatisfied with this and to protect etc. I think I made an appeal that went home.

March 13, 1995

Results of elections are coming in since yesterday. I am not interested at all. Except the usual curiosity I did not put on the radio every hour. Only when we left Bangalore at 4.20 p.m. Shamanna put on the phone and I was listening. As expected since yesterday Maharashtra and Gujarat, are lost to Congress and possibly Orissa, according to my theory by experience of years Congress may gain in Orissa as there is no other organized party.

March 14, 1995 *Chitradurga*

The results of all the States except Bihar, have been announced and Chief Ministers have been announced in Orissa, Maharashtra, Gujarat. It is only in Orrisa Congress has won and in all others defeated. My analysis that no Govt. in any State has succeeded and in all elections since Indira Gandhi wrongly and against all principles and canons of democracy declared emergency in 1977 all ruling parties have lost and new parties have succeeded showing that no party ruled well and therefore kicked out and other parties are brought in, inspite of what they are. It is what I call negative. It is not positive goodness, that has been responsible for win but negative and badness that have been responsible for loss. This is unfortunate. The same may follow soon in Bihar and not an year for Congress in Central elections.

March 15, 1995 *Chitradurga*

The Finance Minister Manmohan Singh seems to show the necessity of at least expressing sympathy with poverty along with the PM Rao after the recent reverses in the important States of Karnataka, Andhra, Maharashtra, Gujarat and framing the budget for 1995-96 to express sympathy in some practised way with poverty and rural problems. I listened to it for about 1 1/2 hours from 5 p.m.

We have to wait, how it will be implemented. But agriculture, irrigation and rural employment, decentralised production are not given the improtance that is due of course. It is a difficult budget as usual during all these decades. But it is not a bad budget but notes the political and economic problems. We shall see how the Govt. behaves as it is the year before the next general elections. My expectation is that it will be defeated and may defeated and may possibly be a hung Parliament.

March 17, 1995 *Chitradurga*

Arunachal, a small N.E. State has won convincingly for Congress (I). This alongwith Orissa has two triumps to Congress (I) credit. But it has lost in very important States. The loss for Biju Partnaik Janata Dal proves my theory that the people have voted against the present Government and not because they favoured new Govt. they have voted for. This is the case since India's time after the emergency. It is the negative vote all along like the present Arunachal. Very rare exception.

March 18, 1995 *Chitradurga*

The elections in Karanataka for Panchayat and Jilla Parishat are on since this one week and today is the last of the 3 days. I do not know which party will win. The important parties are ruling Janata Dal, the Congress (I) which has just lost badly and the coming up B.J.P. It will all be known in 2-3 days. Generally Janata Dal will win and B.J.P. in some pockets like S. Kanara, Shimoga, Chickmagalur.

March 20, 1995 *Chitradurga*

Elections everywhere have been going on peacefully except in very few rare cases in Bihar also so far during the last two election days. Tomorrow is the last. It would be interesting to know which party wins whether the notorious Yadav wins. I expect his party will not. In Karanataka, Panchayat Raj elections have so far gone in favour of the ruling party except in South Kanara district. We must see how these basic institutions work in our State.

March 24, 1995 *Chitradurga*

The villagers of the round about of the Harihar Polyfibres had sent a representative to meet me. The villagers in numbers are coming tomorrow to meet the D.C. as fish have

already begun to die in Thungabhadra river. This matter is under agitation for the last 15-20 years and the State Govt. and the Central Govt. have done little to prevent this unsocial, anti-people, unhealthy, environmental effort of this big factory. Just because money seems to be playing its effective part. Dictated a strong letter to CM.

July 3, 1995 *Chitradurga*

Wrote to Ramakrishnan of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Head Office confirming my telegram that I am committed on 14th and cannot attend the Centenary Celebration in Madras of the late K. Santanam, the well known Gandhian. I know his daughter Madhuri and her husband Prof. M.M. Sondhi of Delhi, I have been writing to the Central Govt. that a commemoration stamp may be issued in favour of Santanam. They have been prevaricating. Mrs. Madhuri and Prof. Sondhi celebrated Santhanam's Centenary last year in Delhi with me as President and Election Commissioner Seshan as main speaker. It was a very meaningful good gathering in Delhi. Wrote all this to Ramakrishan.

July 31, 1995 *Chitradurga*

This morning Prof. Dr. S. Shettar who had come to release Hullur Srinivasa Jois book yesterday came to see me this morning and spent nearly more than an hour discussing many problems. He is a well-known author on historical, cultural, architectural subjects and an authority, internationally known. Worked in American Universities. He agreed with me on my opinion about life, birth, death etc. He is a rationalist. He has written 2-3 books on death very rational. He is essentially a rationalist. While going he presented me, with the 2 volumes of his costly books Hoysala Temples. He is on the verge of retirement as Professor of History etc., of the Karnataka University, Dharwad. Looks very intelligent.

August 15, 1995 *Chitradurga*

This is the 49th Independence Day. What a contrast between the then hopes and the present shattered hopes. One expression will suffice. The people in office, even from the day they took office forgot him and did every thing against the principles he held dear. The result is the present unfortunate position.

September 17, 1995

At 12 five friends from Hubli, Dharwar including Hallikeri Gadleppa's son, a retired lady professor came and after discussing this and that and my life, recorded a statement from me for a "foreword" from me for the biography of Hallikeri Gudleppa. I spoke to the recording about my feelings, experiences and work we had together in the Congress as President and Secretary of the K.P.C.C. his organising capacity, his work for Karnataka State formation and his other qualities and his work for education, constructive work, etc., etc. They felt that I had spoken from my heart and after having a group photo left at about 2 p.m.

September 20, 1995

After rest went to the large Shamiana in front of Shiva Yogi Ashrama building. The 39th death anniversary of Jagadguru Jayadeva Swamyji's was celebrated. The Jagadguru Shiva murthy Swamy, the present, some other Swamys were present. A lady from Belgaum Mate Vagdevi was there. She spoke first, good speech. As I had to come away I managed to speak next. Spoke for about 25 minutes about the day's subject Unity and Integration about the Late Jayadeva Swamy, Basaveswara's philosophy of equality, unity, Kayaka, Gandhiji etc. I think it created an impression.

October 4, 1995 *Chitradurga*

Attended and addressed a gathering of more than a thousand audience in connection with a meeting convened by the Jagadguru of Murughamut as is done every year at the time of the Dasara festival for about a week, since many years. I usually inaugurate. This time I am participating during this last day. The subject was the "Sharana Sahitya" an interesting subject. After preliminaries and music, the Swamiji asked me to speak. I spoke about how if opportunity is given, even people belonging to working classes men and women of so called low castes, uneducated like barbers, washermen, cobblers, tanners, sweepers, agriculturists etc., etc. can enlighten themselves and give expression to the highest human ideals of human society. I spoke for half an hour got the Swamy's permission got home and had a hearty dinner with all.

At the meeting I was given a title 'Ratna', a shawl and a present. Of course nobody will address me by that title.

October 6, 1995

A day to remember J.H. Patel Dy. CM, M.P. Prakash came at 10 and took me to the helipad near Chitradurga. Manju accompanied me. We reached Halavagalu at 10.30 and welcomed. Patel laid foundation for Kalyan Mantap to be constructed in my parents' Adayappa, Neelamma's name, I laid foundation for a Yaksha Gana Gombe Mandali, Prakash for water supply scheme. There was a huge, big congregation of nearly 10,000 people, so big for a village under a very big Shamiana. I was happy and proud. They had all gathered. I could see them. Fine speeches were made by Ministers for Road Transport, Forest, Rural Development, Electricity, Sri Balaji, Meti, Prakash and Patel respectively. A purse was presented to me and Rs.94,000/- in anticipation

of my 94th birthday on 10th December, 1995, collected from 94 persons of Harapanahalli and Hadagali taluks. I had not expected this. I spoke for only a short time remembering my days in this village before I left the village when I was about 5-6 years old. Described the self sufficient life of spinning weaving and other village industries, etc. On the whole I was very happy. After a good lunch in a house whose senior lady knew my late sister Puttakka, left in the helicopter for Chitradurga.

October 14, 1995 *Chitradurga-Hubli*

Patil Puttappa who has been mainly responsible for tomorrow's meeting came and saw me. As usual he has a lot of things to say and mostly speaks himself and does not allow others much time. Instead of separating North Karnataka as he once seems to think and for which he had, I believe, called this conference, he has completely turned round and in thinking of the development of Karantaka as a whole. I think he has appreciated my stand. Of course he is thinking of neglect of Hubli, Upper Krishna Project, Hubli-Karwar Railway line etc. I agree with him.

October 15, 1995 *Hubli*

Patil Puttappa came at breakfast time to tell me that the Conference begins exactly at 10 and I must be there. Went there in time, fairly good gathering of representatives 250 including Ramarkrishna Hegde, M.S. Gurupadaswamy, Ex-speaker, Oppn. leader H.K. Patil and others. After Hegde lighted the lamp, Puttappa who presided made a long speech full of details and urging the usual things. Hubli Railway Workship, Central Office, Hubli-Karwar railway line, Upper Krishna Irrigation Project etc., for 45 minutes. I then, will make my speech and go. Spoke for about half an hour agreeing about these matters and referring to many more

matters even in old Mysore and Hyderabad Karnataka but devoted more time about the utter neglect of irrigation and my pet subject, the total neglect of Directive Principles of State Policy and the deteriorating conditions, the wrong so called Liberalised Policy. Urban & Rural areas going apart, etc. After that I came away leaving Hegde, G. Swamy and others to speak. Puttappa came again in the evening and told me that the meeting went on till 6.30 and resolutions passed. He brought with him Dr. R.C. Hiremutt and another re. Dharwar Murughamutt affairs and I should speak to Jagadguru here re: the mismanagement. Agreed.

December 10, 1995 *Bangalore Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Celebrates my brithday*

R.K. Hegde and his wife Shakuntala came to me to take me to the Bhavan's Building as they wanted me 20 minutes earlier. The rich industralist R.N. Shetty was with us. After breakfast we left for the Bhavan and received with Vedic Chants "Purna Kumba". Deve Gowda who came, as usual, 10 minutes late laid the foundation for additional building for which a Birla family has donated 90 lakhs rupees. The function of felicitating on my 94th birthday, the main event began at 9.30 and instead of 2 hours went on till 1.30 p.m. Speeches of welcome, presentation of "Thambra Patra" in copper and silver were presented by S. Ramakrishnan, the Secretary General, the most important man who has built the Bhavan, speeches by Deve Gowda, Jatti, R.K. Hegde, Moily, Ms. Saroja Devi, film star, Badrinarayan, my old typist Channaveerappa were made. Poems were read. I had not expected all this. Then replied and took 45 minutes and dealt with national subjects, corruption, necessity to avoid the worst evil of casteism, about the Directive Principles. It was generally appreciated. I felt also satisfied, Garlands etc., galore. Then I went to Cubbon Park where, in spite of my

request Vatal Nagaraj M.L.A. had collected about 2 to 3 thousand people. He spoke for 5 minutes on my brithday. I repliesd for 15 minutes. Returned home at 2.30 had lunch and rested. From 5.30 people came with garlands. From 8 to 9.45, we had the dinner arranged by Kiran in honour of my brithday. Cutting the cake, children singing "Happy Brithday to you". All were very happy. It was a day of joy to me.

December 11, 1995 *Chitradurga*

Morning at about 10, M.P. Prakash, Minister for Rural problems etc came and had 10 minutes talk with me and Sri Abhishankar and L.S. Chandrasekhar about the proposed Rural Development Centre for Karantaka to be developed on Gandhian lines modelled on the "Gandhigram" in Tamil Nadu. He agreed to give all possible help and devote two hours time to Abhishankar whose Scheme is pending with the Central Government and the State Government sicne 1983. Correspondence is going on by me also since the last about 10 years and more. This is how the Governments are treating schemes related to Rural areas. Immediately after they left Jaffer Sherief, Ex-Railway Minister came and we discussed the matter connected with his dismissal from the Railway Ministership and is resignation from the ministership without portfolio. I liked his resignation, on my concerned enquiry about the roumoured enquiry about the scandals current against him, he said he is ready for any judicial enquiry and that I need not be anxious and said before god I am innocent.

December 31, 1995

Today is the last day of the year. It is closing 'today'. I do not believe there is anything special about the ending year. The same problems. The ruling party in the Centre Congress (I) has been of late thinking and expressing loudly of "Rural

Poor" and lately "Urban poor". In the coming elections no party will have a working majority. There may be a huge parliament. Only B.J.P. should not get the majority. It will ruin the country.

January 6, 1996 *Chitradurga-Bangalore*

Cauvery agitation seems to have extended from Mysore, Mandya in a small way to Tumkur, Shimoga. I feel most of this a purely politically motivated. My feeling is Karantaka is neither substantially losing neither Tamilnadu substantially gaining. Pure and simple politics.

January 31, 1996 *Chitradurga*

This morning Ramakrishna Hegde's mother passed away. She was very old and weak. But whenever I went to their house she was making kind enquiries. She was a freedom fighter and had been imprisoned more than once, including during the famous no-tax campaign in North Canara district in the early thirties. Sent a condolence message to Hegde.

February 7, 1996 *Hubli, Dharwad Function 4 p.m.*

In the morning phoned to Patil Puttappa (PaPu). He came at about 9.30 and spent an hour with me. He has a number of items of information and his own opinions. Mostly speaks himself. I allow him that. After a heavy lunch and rest, Manju & Murugesh brought the car at 4 p.m. and we left for the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Janata Shikshana Samithi, Dharwad. It was started by Rama Rao Hukkerikar master and after his death it fell into wrong hands and was restored by the Dharmadhikari Veerendra Hegade and as is usual with all institutions which he undertakes had made phenomenal progress and is one of the best run colleges. Went there in time and after procession which I watched, the function began at 5 and I left the place at 5.30 after I had made my inaugural speech of the teachers' consulting

room Guru Sri Bhavana, After some ministers I spoke for about 50 minutes referring to education, world humanity, scientific development, etc.

February 14, 1996

As decided yesterday, left for Alamatti Dam site and upper Krishna Irrigation Project. K.P. Patil and other friends accompanied in other cars. Reached the dam site at about 11 and as they were informed the Executive Engineers and the Superindenting Engineer met me and discussed the details of the construction of the dam and the canals of Narayanpur, production of electricity veritically and horizontially, great gates, Bagalkote submersion area, of irrigation etc., etc. They gave all the information. I asked these details in view of the discussion I had with Reddy, Former Chief Engineer at Belgaum who had sent me a detailed note of nearly 25 pages. After this discussion at Almatti I felt rather doubtful about Reddy's opinions. I was taken along earthern bund and then to where actual conerete construction of the dam was being done through the material being brought by high wires in trollies.

February 16, 1996 *Chitradurga*

Shastry was a freedom fighter in Rajasthan during the pre-independence days along Jai Narayan Vyas and other in the Rajasthan State. Most of the leaders were friends of mine. We would meet at the All India States, People, Conference every year at its meeting in various parts of India mostly in North India. I had helped financially this institution as CM of Karantaka and got help from other States. I am happy to go to Banasthali.

February 23, 1996

After continued efforts to contact him by telegram, phones many times during the last 3 days got a phone call at about

8 p.m from S.N. Mishra (Shyam Babu) from Delhi. Told him considering the unhappy and undesirable developments in the country, the deteriorating morality all round sp. in the Governments and the ministers in the Centre, the increase in Mafia, the economic imbalances, the misery, poverty, unemployment, starvation, ill health etc., etc., there is due necessity of convening meeting of members of the National Concensus, of which I am Chairman and he is Secretary. He complimented me for this idea and said he is willing to do all that is necessary. Told him I will write a letter regarding the matter. The teachers who though they have served more than 10 years and upto 17 are still not confirmed. They have struck in all the districts numbering more than ten thousand. I have also written to the Chief Minister Deve Gowda who wants to settle the matter early. The State Legislative Assembly and Council are in session and this matter is coming up conspiciously. The "Havala" movement is one may call it to is involving more and more ministers. Ex-Ministers, Secretaries and other leaders. About 10 Ministers have resigned. Deserves keen watching.

February 28, 1996 *Chitradurga*

Director of Kannada & Culture Sri. Gupta and Director of Archaeology Sri Devaraj, Sir Rudraradhya who had also come yesterday and two others came at about 10.30 in the morning and told me that Govt. had sanctioned Rs. 50,000 (Fifty thousand) to be granted to Panduranga Jois, the son of Late Hullur Srinivasa Jois who was well known as one who knew the history of this district and the history of the Pallegars, etc., for centuries. This Panduranga Jois though appointed curator of the local museum was poorly paid though he built it up. I had been writing to Govt. very strongly, since about 8-10 years that he should be paid much more. It is now they have decided to pay him this fairly good amount. Panduranga Jois is in very poor circumstances.

I am happy. He has also a number of old records etc., collected by his father. These officers said they would publish relevant records and give royalty to Panduranga Jois. I sent word they may do so. In the evening Panduranga Jois came and informed that the amount was paid to him. He was happy. He also agreed to give the records. Told him to apply for more pension.

March 3, 1996 *Chitradurga*

A day as usual. Had also half an hour's walk. During the last about a month the whole of India has been roused and interested in the "Havala" episode, arising out, of the revelations in a dairy of a rich industrialist S.P. Jain who has bribed quite a few ministers, bureaucrats and leaders of political parties. The Supreme Court has to be complimented for the Judges sp. the Chief Justice the way in which the Court has insisted that the CBI should awake itself, not be tardy indifferent about its duty and whipped it to be active and honest. The result is a few Central Ministers have resigned, leaders of political parties including the President of the JD Sri Dandavate have resigned from Parliament. I think more surprises will come. The Prime Minister's name is not in the dairy but his statement to the CBI seems to have mentioned his name, he is free till now. He is none too honest. I believe he is equally, if not more, corrupt. Let us wait and see.

March 4, 1996 *Ingaldal Copper Mines*

The Chief Minister Deve Gowda did not turn up for the function of inauguration of the former copper mine being turned and converted into a gold mine as copper mining underground does not pay and the Gold available in the hills is expected to yield 8 crores of Rupees (8-10) net income per year. It was a well attended of about 5 thousand villagers mostly officials, Ministers and M.Ps and M.L.As also were

present. Ministers Deshpande, Thippeswamy spoke and went to Bangalore as the 1996-97 Budget is to be introduced at 1 p.m. today. H. Hanumanthappa M.P. spoke after I spoke not only of mining but also of politics, corruption etc., for half an hour and left for home. Other 2-3 were expected to speak. I wish the mine will yield results as also others to be started in Chitradurga and Tumkur districts.

March 19, 1996 *Bangalore-Delhi*

Patel the Managing Trustee of the Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel Memorial Trust came with Setia and we had some discussion as to tomorrow's agenda for the Trustees Board Meeting. Ofcourse we need not see the PM Narasimha Rao as he cannot in view of the election date having been fixed today by the Election Commission to be held on the 27th April, 2nd and 7th 1996. The dates have been fixed by the Election Commission without the Government being agreeable, as I think, Narasimha Rao was purposely postponing. The two ordinances which PM had submitted to the President Shankar Dayal Sharma have been turned down. The man has behaved well. I did not expect he will be bold enough to do so. Possibly because the PM may not be PM after the elections. 8.30 p.m the Karantaka Janata Dal Party President Ibrahim who is in Delhi came to me, touched my feet and discussed casually Karnataka Politics. In the afternoon Bhavan Officers came to me and offered to do everything for me.

March 20, 1996 *Delhi*

At 11 a.m the meeting of the Board of Trustees was held. Sadiq Ali, Choudhary, S.N. Mishra, Managing Director Manubhai Patel, Ramkrishna Hegde and myself were present. Two were absent. Sidhu of Lucknow and a member from Calcutta were absent. We confirmed the last proceedings. Considered other matters on the agenda,

passed next year's budget and postponed filling up the 3 vacanices of Trustees till after elections and decided to increase the salaries of the staff. To meet after elections. My offering to resign was emphatically protested. Got Rs. 4,000/- from Setia towards air charges for me and Manju and car charges. I have already received Rs. 6,000/- by cheque. In the afternoon at 5 we had the meeting of the Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel Society. Only the Secretary Chopra, his wife, one member and myself as Chairman were present. We confirmed the previous proceedings and decided all else though we were only 4 of us. Usually nobody else attend. In fact it has become one man's affair of Dr. Chopra. He does what is the main objective namely publishing Sardar Patel Biography 6th & 7th volumes are ready. I told Chopra the two volumes may be published after the elections. We agreed to publish the biography also of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose and discussed details.

April 2, 1996

Read in the morning papers that because there was delay in naming Gulbarga University as Basaveswara University, there was burning of a Bus in a village in Bidar District. I called for a Press Conference and expressed stongly against this attitude of expressing the protest in violent acts and this pressure is unbecoming of the followers of Basaveswara in this fashion and whether the Karnataka Govt. names the University in his name or not is not of much consequence and this crude indulgence by his devotees is wrong and does not bring credit to this greatest of social reformers.

April 12, 1996 *Bangalore*

London University Senior Lecturer in Politics Sunil Philnani came at 10 and was with me till 12.30. He is writing about Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and asked me about him. I was

quite frank and told him about Nehru's merits and defects and how he was likeable and how his "Socialistic Pattern of Society" prevented India going down both politically and economically and also socially, how he was ignorant of rural India and its problems, my usual opinion about Directive Principles etc. He asked my opinion about many other things, about India's problem, and my own views about life, religion, etc., etc.

April 17, 1996 *Chitradurga*

Ramakrishna Hegde came to my house this morning at about 9.30 and spent about 10 minutes. He came with a number of persons among whom he introduced 2-3 persons who are touring with him on behalf of his party Janata Dal. One was a Cinema Star. I suggested to him to have a fund created in order to have an annual award or scholarship in his mother's memory in any university. He agreed that he would do so on the next death anniversary of his mother in the Karantaka University. We did not have any discussion on politics. I have a feeling he is not very seriously concerned. One fellow who had accompanied him suggested I must bless Hegde to be the next Prime Minister. We both laughed.

May 14, 1996

By evening there was news and press people went on phoning that the President Shankar Dayal Sharma has invited Vajpayee, leader of BJP to form a Govt. and to try his strength and prove it before 30th of this month and they wanted my opinion. I told them that I agree that he has followed a convention as BJP is the biggest party and he is right though I view that the party of which Deve Gowda leads deserves to form a Govt. I think we must wait till the 30th. I feel that President is right in following a convention. We must wait.

May 16, 1996 *Chitradurga*

The President has sworn in Vajpayee-leader of the BJP as Prime Minister of India who in turn has selected 11 more of his party and group as Central Ministers. The first meeting of the new cabinet has also met. The new PM has naturally expressed some platitudes re. the objectives of his Govt. Of course he had to do it and he did. Of course, quite a few foreign Govts. have expressed sympathy and friendliness with the new Indian Govt. We have to watch with curiosity what will happen by the end of this month.

May 17, 1996 *Chitradurga*

Formation of ministries in Delhi and in some States is the big news. Atal Bihari Vajpayee has become the Prime Minister of India. One does not know for how many days. Possibly for only 15 days or less. No doubt he is one of the fittest for the job. There are also very few of that category and character. But he needs a party. BJP is notorious for its casteist tendencies.

May 23, 1996 *Chitradurga*

As expected Sangma has been elected as Speaker of the Lok Sabha. It seems he is the youngest speaker.

Before the vote of no confidence which is already fixed can be moved in the House, the new Speaker has ruled that it is only after the President's speech tomorrow before the Joint Houses. It is interesting what the President is going to say and whether he is to be guided by the temporary Govt.of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. We shall see tomorrow.

May 24, 1996 *Chitradurga*

The President Shankar Dayal Sharma's address to the Joint Session of Parliament is of course according to the BJP Party's ideas or objectives insisting on morals in administration,

lowering of corruption, cow protection, etc. In a matter of 4 days, I think they will be out of office.

Interesting. Some leaders including R. Venkataraman, Ex-President, C. Subramanian, Phalkiwala want now a National Govt. That would be nice. But is it possible in the present situation.

June 1, 1996 *Bangalore-Chitradurga*

Hegde came for breakfast and was with me for about 45 minutes. He was bitter against Deve Gowda and had a lot to say against him. I have a feeling that Hegde feels disappointed. No doubt as between the two Gowda and Hegde the latter according to me is the better of the two. But what has operated against him is that the parties of various States sp. Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, U.P., Bihar and others are all Anti-Brahim and naturally Gowda was preferred. Further the leaders and CMs' are all interested in remaining where they are as otherwise their respective parties would be left without convincing leaders. Even in Karnataka there was lot of trouble and wire pulling, internal caste squabbles before J.H. Patel was accepted as Chief Minister and as part of compromise Siddharamaiah a non-Lingayat Kuruba was accepted as Dy. leader, Caste! Caste! Caste every where. This is becoming the greatest bane in the country.

June 2, 1996

Dr. Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, former President of India, who died yesterday evening was cremated with honours today. I remember how I was mainly responsible to make him Speaker of Lok Sabha and then was responsible mainly in having chosen him as President by giving up my chance.

June 12, 1996 *Chitradurga*

Discussion about the confidence motion moved yesterday

by Deve Gowda as PM continued and finally passed allowing him to continue as PM and the United front Govt. to continue. His speech at the end was not bad. Of course he is not too good in English. But sufficient to carry on which I am sure he will. He has been fairly frank re. his concern for the poor, for agriculture and rural problems of drinking water, roads, housing etc. Now that he is fixed up, we have to watch how he shapes and his govt.

June 13, 1996 *Chitradurga*

At about 6 p.m a UNI correspondent came and asked me for my reactions regarding the expelling of Ramakrishna Hegde from the Janata Dal party. I was very much surprised and told him I have no reaction except surprise as I do not know the circumstances which have led to this explusion. After some consideration I feel this is an anti-Brahmin activity. It is also true that Deve Gowda and Hegde had no love lost as between the two. I think this will lead to some Brahmin reaction and papers which are mostly edited by Brahmins will carry on a campaign against the Central Govt. We have to wait and see.

June 19, 1996 *Chitradurga - Bangalore*

At 5.15 Hegde came to me and was with me for about an hour. He was bitterly complaining against Deve Gowda, he has misbehaved all along and how he, Hegde built up this Janata Dal organization and Gowda was against it etc. etc. He told me how Gowda has behaved and now without giving him even a notice he has been expelled from the party. He also told me how this objectionable fellow Ibrahim is misbehaving. Then I told him how this personal difference is going to affect both the Karnataka State and more important the Country itself.

July 9, 1996 *Chitradugra*

I have been receiving quite a few letters in favour of Hedge that he has been, badly treated by the explusion. He has also been as reported loudly in the press, having big receptions in North Karnataka districts and thousands, are gathering to his "Nava Nirman" meeting meant to create a new party. There is nothing of any political philosophy; new ideals or new objectives for the country's good. The whole thing is because he was removed. Nothing else has changed. If he had not been removed or continued in the party this new party formation would not been thought of. It is only personal. Pity. On the other hand Deve Gowda is a cool manipulator. We must watch for some time. I expect nothing spectacular is going to happen.

August 9, 1996 *Chitradurga*

The car from the radio office came at 9.30. I was waiting for it. I went there and after the preliminaries my 3 items were recorded all in Karantaka. 1st, as to my feeling when I received the *Nadoja* award from the Kannada University at Hampi. I spoke for about 3 mintues as desired complimenting the University for its excellent developments and achievements under V.C. Chandrashekar Kambhar, his staff, etc. Was happy to the award conferred on late "Kuvempu" and Gangu Bai Hangal the famous singer, 2nd, spoke for about 4-5 minutes about Doddameti Andanappa. Dealt with his activities as freedom fighter, his faith and devotion to Gandhiji, his making a road to his village, taking Gandhiji to his village, his faith in Karnataka unification and his work as Minister with me and his sharing of property equally with children both by his married wife and another lady. 3rd, Answered question re. the freedom struggle. Objectives and achievements during the last 50 years and failures, present unhappy situation, corruption, etc., etc. My

pet subject neglect of Directive principles of State Policy, etc., for about 15-20 minutes. The first was on request from Hospet Radio Station, the 2nd from Dharwad and 3rd from Chitradurga.

August 13, 1996 *Chitradurga*

My autobiography is finished and I am going through the last pages of the typed scripts. I think I can get it ready. Phoned to Gulbaga to the Chairman, Hyderabad Karnataka Education Society that 30th of this month is convenient for me and they may make arrangements accordingly to open the "Nijalingappa Dental College."

August 15, 1996 *Bangalore*

Went to the Independence Day Celebration function arranged by the "Nivarana" association of a private institution to serve the Basavanagudi Constituency at 9.00 A.M. It was a bit late when it began as there was good rain yesterday night. They conferred on me the title *'Prajaratana'* and presented it in a copper plate the entire quotation etched on it and mounted on rosewood frame and embroidered all round. They call me" Bhisma." The function was inaugurated by Dr. U.R. Anantha Murthy, the well known literateur and President, Central Sahitya Academy and receipient of Jnanapitha Award and the function presided over by ex-Minister Dharam Singh. The whole function was most attractive by the display of drill, dance, songs, etc., by children belonging to various education institutions in the locality. It pleased me very much and I spent happy 3 hours witnessing the whole function and granting of awards to students and teachers. Dr. Anantha Murthy was lavish in his praise of me which I did not expect. This Independence day function is the best I have witnessed. I am happy. I can not forget this fine celebration, the best I have witnessed and enjoyed. My speech lasted for half an hour and I dealt

with the significance and importance of this day, Gandhiji's unique leadership etc., which is usual to me and the present unhappy situation and the necessity for the citizens of India to fight against it and for the children, future citizens to unite and prepare themselves to build a glorious united, strong India.

September 9, 1996 *Chitradurga*

In the morning Girijamma well-known social worker came with a friend to inform me and thank me as she has been appointed Chair Person of the Karantaka State Committee for Women's Welfare. She is very happy and had come in the official car given to her for her official tours. She deserves this appointment. She is a very successful worker and is in charge 3-4 welfare institutions in Davanagere to one of which I have donated Rupees 60,000/- in mother and wife's names.

September 12, 1996 *Chitradurga*

It ia a pity that yesterday Dr. Sadashiva Wodeyar a brilliant student, Professor, University Registrar, Vice Chancellor, writer, author both in English and Kannada and so many things together unexpectedly passed away in Bangalore. He was requested by some of my friends to write my biography and I was told he had done a considerable part of it. We have lost a great scholar and author of Karnataka. He was I believe nearing 75.

September 18, 1996 *Raichur*

M.S. Patil, Minister for Textiles came as per his phone yesterday with his car at 9. I had by that time my breakfast and we left for the helipad at 9.30 and left in the helicopter at 10. It is very near the airport and a part of it. We first reached Bellary and after refuelling, left for Raichur and was very enthusiastically welcomed with a large number of

garlands. Sri. N.V. Gadgil spokesman of the Congress (I) accompanied by the Chairman of Karnataka Leg. Council who as well as M.S. Patil belong to Raichur and mainly responsible for this function. It was held in the Veerasaiva Kalyan Mantap. The audience inside and outside the hall was about 3 to 3 1/2 thousand a very enthusiastic audience consisting largely of freedom fighters during the Hyderbad State Freedom Struggle from the 3 Karnataka districts, Raichur, Gulbarga, Bidar. After the preliminaries speeches were made by V.N. Gadgil, Spokesman of the Congress (I), Nagappa, local advocate and Kalmankar, Chairman of Leg. Council both responsible for the function. I was weighted with Rupee coins which I think will amount to 10 or 12 thousand rupees. They want to add to it and create a fund in my name. Spoke in reply for 40 minutes which was liked very much. They also presented me with silver plate with the map of the 3 districts and with an embroidered shawl. I have a feeling that these people have great deal of respect for me and express gratitude for all that is done for them.

September 22, 1996 *Chitradurga*

Though P.V. Narasimha Rao has resigned from the Presidentship of the Congress (I) it is funny that some members of the A.I.C.C.(I) want him to continue while some others are thinking of requesting Rajiv Gandhi's widow Sonia Gandhi to be Congress (I) President. It is an indication of the utter paucity. It is the party of members capable of being the President. It looks odd and discloses want of Character in the party. After most objectionable way in which Rao continued as President, it is only after his name was in the charge sheet under a charge of cheating that the man resigned. It is equally interesting that party members also wanted him to continue. Shameful.

September 26, 1996 *Chitradurga*

The number of scams involving the highest in the land including the Prime Minister, Central Ministers, chief Ministers, bureaucrats at the highest level and Ministers of the various States are daily increasing in numbers disclosing the amount of corruption in various forms. There seems to be no end to these daily activities of these people, of course it began with that lady Indira Gandhi who laid the foundation for corruption in Public Life. One has to watch with curiosity and care as to what will be the result of these prosecutions. No doubt under the guidance of the Supreme Court and the various High Courts these dirty things are coming out. Let the Indian citizen watch with care.

October 19, 1996 *Chitradurga*

Since yesterday in U.P. as the parties did not come to an understanding to form a Government, President's Rule has been continued for 6 months more. B.J.P. is the single largest party and had to be given an opportunity to form a Government as was done after the last elections a few months back. It is wrong they were not allowed to form a Govt. in U.P. now. Funny! Naturally the B.J.P. wants to protest in all the States.

November 1, 1996 *Chitradurga*

At about 10.30 five men from Mysore, members of the Kannada Chaluvaligars came to me and stated that on this meaningful day when united Karnataka State came into existence 40 years ago and you became the first Chief Minister we have come to show our respect for you since you were the main person who worked for it. Told them I was only one of those that worked. They had several photographs with me and of myself only. Offered me a woollen Kashmir shawl, a costly frame with Ganapathi Idol,

offered flowers and fruits and after an hour took their leave. They had come in a car all the way from Mysore. They did not want anything from me. I think it is pure respect that prompted them to do this.

November 3, 1996 *Chitradurga-Hubli*

K. Shyama Rao, Managing Editor of Samyukta Karnataka came and told me that I may come at 10.30 for the function. He had other friends with him. Later some friends of Samyukta Karnataka came again and discussed tomorrow's function. They seem to be anxious to have me. Feeling tired and there is slight swelling in the legs as it often happens if I sit long journeys in the car.

November 7, 1996 *Chitradurga*

As usual papers are full of arrests, bail applications, searches, scams etc. How much of dishonesty. Ofcourse this has developed since 1969 when Indira divided the Congress. She is practically the root cause of corruption in public life, administration, sp. Ministers and Legislators.

Happy India has won against S. Africa in cricket who had won all the 5 matches in succession.

December 9, 1996 *Delhi*

Went to the old Central Hall of Parliament the hall in which we met three hundred and odd of the Constituent Assembly consisting of the best elements in the country with Rajendra Prasad presiding on 9th December, 1946 half a century ago and met for 3 years to iron out our Constitution. Remembered with pride all that, today only 15 members old, very old are living and only 8 or 9 of us were made to sit in front row. We were honoured after speeches relevant for the occasion by the President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, my former secretary of the days from 1968 to 1969 when I

was Congress President, Vice President Narayan, Deve Gowda and Mrs. Heptulla, Vice Chairperson. Each of us the Ex-Members were presented with a Shawl and a gold plated silver plate and the function came to an end.

December 10, 1996 *Delhi*

The whole day was one of intense activity except between 2 and 4 p.m. In the morning people came with flowers and good wishes quite a number of them. In afternoon from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the front hall where meetings are usually held, important persons along with others came and wished me happy returns. Some have sent a cake which was cut by me and distributed. Former Kashmir Maharaja Karan Singh, P.V.R. Rao, Sikhandar Bhakt, Chandrashekhar, Ramakrishna Hegde, old friend Avadesh Pratap Singh's son, many others came and offered flowers. Karan Singh and another lady offered Pashmina shawls, sweets, and most of them flowers. K.C. Pant also came. It was a very happy evening. All of them had coffee, tea, a sweet of a hot preparation, in the whole it made me happy. Sri Ashraff was the most active person. Rao, the Ex-PM spoke to me for 5 mintues and in the impression left on me was if this man could have really committed the offences, scams for which he is charge-sheeted in a number of cases. Possibly he may be a cosummate actor having committed all the offences. Some one possibly late Avadesh Pratap's son has given a fairly big silver plate. All this was arranged by Ashraff in co-operation with our Shetty-my Chela.

December 29, 1996 *Mandya-Bangalore*

This is a fairly confortable guest house and 1 recollect my having stayed here 2-3 times. Had my bath and went to late Shankara Gowda's house for breakfast on Smt. Gowda's invitation. She had all her 3 sons and daughters and their children who all welcomed me and touched my feet as

usual. They feel obliged to me. Some half a dozen pressmen met here and asked questions about the prevalent situation in the country and why so much of corruption etc., is prevalent etc. I gave my usual answers. Went to the guest house and had an hour rest.

The main function of unveling of "Kuvempu" statue by me began at 11.30. After my unveiling of the statue, the main function of celebrating his 93rd birthday and congratulating Ex-V.C. Ramegowda on his new appointment by the Centre went on. Good speeches were made. I spoke for 20 minutes and mainly referred "Kuvempu" ideal of *Vishwa Manava* as disclosed in the last portion of his "Ramayana Darshana". I left the place in the middle and went for lunch to "Vishwa Manava" institution which has been inaugurated 6-7 years ago by me and General Cariappa. The institution is run by the Adi Chunchanagiri Jagadguru who also graced the function.

December 31, 1996 *Bangalore-Chitradurga*

This year 1996 has gone and these are the last hours. Have I done well. I do not know. I think my present efforts to revive old Congress will yield results. It is a hope.

January 2, 1997

At 5 Prof. of Kannada of Dharwad Mallikarjuna Sindhagi came at my request and took down what I said by way of a foreword for his biography in Kannada of Swamy Ramanand Thirtha who was my close friend and who led the movement in Hyderabad State for freedom. It was nearly 3 pages. He was satisfied and wanted me to go over to Dharwad on the 22nd for publishing the book.

January 26, 1997

A proud day for us. We have made progress in some

respects. We have built up our Defences which can be compared to any country. There has been progress in industry. But substantial progress has not been made in spreading education, removal of poverty, unemployment, etc. Very much remains to be done. The Nation celebrated this day throughout, I believe, with enthusiasm in many places. Villages, I am sure were little enthused. Many of them may neither know or understand its significance, reason : illiteracy and consequent ignorance.

February 1, 1997 *Bangalore-Chitradurga*

As scheduled attended the meeting convened at my request by the Major Irrigation Minister Nage Gowda regarding the Upper Tunga and Upper Bhadra projects. K.C. Reddy the topmost engineer of the State and other 2-3 Chief Engineers and 2-3 Sup. Engineers wer present. Retired Sup. Engineer G. Paramasivaiah was also present. The Minister was also present. The M.P. Kodanda Ramaiah was not present on the ground that the minister had not invited. But he was informed alongwith Paramasivaiah and he had agreed to come. After sufficient discussion that the Upper Tunga left may be accepted as it does militate against the Bhadra Project in case it is accepted later on. It means 10 years delay. But the Tunga may be finished within 4 years. Paramasivaiah agreed. The minister was very kind.

February 2, 1997 *Bangalore*

After considerable delay due to S.N. Mishra the Sardar Memorial Trust meeting was held in Kiran's house only. It took two hours for the deliberations and we took necessary decisions. I was to personally contact Prime Minister Gowda re. transfer of Title to 7, Jantar Mantar Road and finally see that it is done. Now that only Nehru and Azad statues are in Parliament house, I was asked to write to the Speaker for similar statues of Sardar Patel and Dr. Rajendra Prasad to

be installed in Parliament House. Sadiq Ali to draft the letter and bring it and the letter to be delivered and personally see him while I am in Delhi from tomorrow till the 10th. The Budget also was passed. Kolar leading Lawyer an Ex-communist R. Venkataram met me for courtesy. Chest paining due to continuous speaking possibly.

February 3, 1997 *Bangalore-Delhi*

As Murugesh had left for Chitradurga, left for Airport in Kiran's car with Manju. The plane left and reached in time. Ashraf had reserved for me in the upper class. It was more comfortable, I liked the conveniences. The Central Minister Bommai was with me in the plane, we discussed many problems. He mostly spoke of his opinion and achievements most of the time. He told me he would help Banashankari Vidya Peeth. I was happy the Karnataka Bhavan Car had come to the airport with Rajendra. I am put up this time in room No. 1. It is comfortable

February 5, 1997 *Delhi*

This has been a most busy and tiring day. Since breakfast except for the two hours of sleep in the afternoon people have been coming and seeing me. Thanks to Ashraf continuous phoning to several leaders in Delhi. Most of them including Karan Singh, Mrs. Kidwai, P.V. Narasimha Rao etc., have all been phoning either they will attend or express full agreement with my object. Ranbir Singh, the Vice President and several other Congress workers of Bihar, U.P. came and spent sometime. Also non-political people like two students and youth representatives came and sought my advices. Mrs. Shyamala Bhave the great musician of Bangalore who has today received possibly the highest international award came and expressed her happiness and said it was due to my blessings and encouragement she received when she was very young from me that she has

been successful and sought my blessings. Her brother was with her. She presented me with two cassettes of her music. I was happy. Sadiq Ali came and spent some time with me. Ranbir Singh with Ashraf was there and we discussed various pensions we are receiving and Sadiq Bhai has to receive. Absolutely tired.

February 8, 1997 *Delhi*

As promised C. Subramanaiam came for breakfast with Son-in-law a doctor of Erode and we had a heart to heart talk about the present situation and he reiterated that the best thing would be to have district committees and promised things about corruption present and past, about Jayalalitha, and her vast properties, her dishonesty etc. Both of us felt what can one do with such vast accumulation of wealth. Soon after the Ex-speaker of Lok Sabha Rabi Ray came and entirely agreed with my views about the reasons for this corruption and all round degradation and his attempts to rope in the youth, College Students for his purpose and gave me a note on the subject printed some months ago. Good and informative. Wanted me to send a reply, write it here and give it to the receptionist and he will get it. He wanted me to have a wide activity. I also feel like that. But can I. He was very differential towards me. Later on some members of the Indian Journalists Association who are our tenants in 7 Jantar mantar road came to request for more room. Spoke to them about the past, Nehru, Indira, Patel etc. Promised that I would place the matter before the Trust. Today comparatively easy, so very loving, feeling a bit better. Dictated reply to Rabi Ray.

February 20, 1997 *Chitradurga*

The Chinese President, the all powerful, is dead. We may have to watch for development. I think the thinking sections of the people specially the youth of China will revolt and

having been tired of suppression they may have recourse to possible violence. The world watches, I am sure, with interest with no sympathy for the President's dictatorship.

February 23, 1997 *Chitradurga*

At about 9.30 Basavannappa Ex-minister and also present Minister came to me on his way to Channagiri to attend a function in which the Chief Minister was expected to participate, came just to see me. While with me, he told me that casteism and communalism have become too pronounced as secularism is nowhere to be seen. He agreed with me when I said it is high time that this distinction between castes like ST, SC different variation of Backwardness should go and the distinction should depend upon financial condition of the citizen as that will be rational, reasonable and scientific. He said I may deal with it in a press conference at Shimoga on the 8th of next month, when I will inaugurate the Kannada Jagrithi Sammelana. I agreed. I was surprised and happy that the opinion should come from him. He belongs to the SC Tribes namely Lamanis or Banjaras. I respect him for it.

February 27, 1997 *Bangalore*

Morning at about 11 journalists by previous appointment came to me and recorded my opinion about the late Chief Minister of Karnataka Devaraj Urs as he said he is preparing a complete history of the man and wanted my opinion of the man. I told him about everything. I knew his extreme poverty, my help to him and failings and his apologies, his experiments, his help to the minorities, his exploiting them for his advantage, his bringing corruption for the first time openly and positively in Karnataka administration along with Indira Gandhi in India, his so called adopted daughter, his death, her death etc. After rest went to a small underground theatre near Aradhya's hotel in Gandhinagar in a car sent

by Chindodi Leela, on whose invitation I have come to Bangalore. She and a few others welcomed me and saw a film prepared under her direction about the life and the great work done for music in Karnataka by the blind musician Gandharva and Shadakshari who was born blind became one of the greatest musicians of India and trained thousands of blind boys to be musicians and also quite a large number of others. Many musicians famous in Karnataka were trained by him. The film is very good, well written, well acted, well sung.

March 1, 1997 *Bangalore-Chitradurga*

As scheduled the D.D. people of a private company came with their Cameras and recording equipment and recorded my important experiences as a freedom fighter. Having heard my experiences before recording, they wanted to record from me only the Thuruvanur Forest Satyagraha incident. My wife's advice that "I have appeared for the Gandhi Examination and I must pass in it" at the time of my arrest the next early morning and my experiences with the rough Kumar, the first night of scratchings all over my body and my having finger tips bleeding when tried to clean the earthern plate(**mucchala**) the first jail meal. They were satis-fied with it.

March 30, 1997

Congress withdraws support to Deve Gowdas Govt. at centre. At about 5 p.m when I was having my coffee Rajanna told me congress has withdrawn its support to Deve Gowda's Govt. When I read today morning certain information in the papers about Congress President having seen somebody, I had felt he means mischief. Now my apprehension has proved correct. So far as I know he is an undependable mischievous fellow. About 20 paper representatives from Bangalore, Davanagere and here

phoned to me and wanted my opinion. I said unless the Govt. gets the necessary support from the parties it is likely Govt. should go. There is no other party available. Kesri has in his letter to the President has claimed to from a Govt. It is impossible. The fellow should know it. I think mid-term elections to the Lok Sabha have to be held, knowing that no party is likely to get the required majority and no party has normal legs to stand upon, people should vote to the best candidate irrespective of what party he belongs. But it is not an easily alternative. The suggestion is too new. Anyhow we must watch keenly for developments in Delhi during the next week.

April 13, 1997 *Chitradurga*

The wranglings and meetings for power at Delhi are going on. BJP is trying its best to join hands with some parties. The party in power, the National Front is trying to have Congress support as they have practically sacrificed Deve Gowda. The Congress is meeting tomorrow. But no party is willing to face a poll as all of them are sure of not only not getting a majority but even getting than now. So they will all somehow manage to remain and try to be in Parliament. The National Front may even have congress to share power. Anything is possible with these political adventurers.

April 14, 1997 *Chitradurga*

It is evident that with a view to come to an understanding with the Congress the National Front is giving in to throw out Deve Gowda in favour of another. The Congress is holding a day long meeting. My view is that the whole atmosphere is one of moral chaos. Everybody for himself and none for the Nation. It is pity. We are in the hands of political adventurers.

April 15, 1997 *Chitradurga*

Wranglings are going on. The definite conclusion seems to be Deve Gowda should go and one of the 3-4 leaders may be elected leader. Congress is decided to support as before. There is considerable sense in the opinion of the BJP that as National Front has already lost vote of confidence. The same party cannot be allowed to run the Government on the support of the same party. The situation is so bad that anything may happen. It is a pity that not even Deve Gowda's resignation is appreciated and compliments given to him though till recently, the party stood as preferred, solidly behind him. Poor stuff. No conviction, no morals nor decent behaviour. Let us see what happens by Monday.

May 2, 1997 *Chitradurga*

U.K.'s election yesterday has resulted in the Labour Government got into power after nearly 15 years under Tony Blair the Prime Minister. It is good as it was the British Government under the Labour party, that gave Independence to India.

The Lok Sabha met under the new Prime Minister Gujral and passed the Railway Budget. Hope that things go on as usual for some time.

May 9, 1997 *Bangalore*

Awarded "Basavasri" title at a huge gathering at Bangalore at a meeting to celebrate Basaveswara Day - BasavaJayanti. The award, I was told it was a long due.

June 26. 1997 *Bangalore*

A very trying and tiring morning. The State Minister Mrs. Leelavati came and with her a number of newspaper men who put number of questions on my life, the present

situation etc., etc. This went on from 10.30 to 11.30 and then we had coffee. The while talk was recorded. The Minister gifted me a shawl and praised me to the stars. I did not quite like it. But had to bear. Then by special recording latest instruments and for the archives records to be preserved to a century, Prof. D. Javare Gowda put me a number of question re. my life, details, struggle, its history, then the disappointment during the last 50 years it success and failures. Gandhiji, Netaji, my activities in Con-gress, Presidents, Karnataka Unification, my personal matters and so may things sp. my messages for the future of the county, it present drawbacks etc., etc. for nearly two hours, so that by the time it was finished it was 2 p.m completely exhausted. I have too much respect to Gowda to refuse his question. Also he is my biographer and he has published it in Kannada about 5 years back. He is an admirer of Basaveswara and his philosphy, is held to be an authority, and author of quite a few. Had a quiet afternoon.

July 4, 1997 *Delhi*

Came a journalist lady with a representative of Washington Herald, well known daily of U.S. The American representative was a black American born Indian whose accents could not followed. But the Indian Lady was helpful.

July 17, 1997 *Chitradurga*

The result of the Presidential election is, as expected. Sri K.R. Narayanan has succeeded in the election to the Indian Presidentship , one of the most important office of the world. He deserves to be the Indian President from every point of view. To add he is a Harijan. It was silly of the Ex-Chief Election Commissioner to stand as a candidate. Foolish also.

July 24, 1997 *Chitradurga*

Glad to learn that Guljarilal Nanda and the late Aruna Asaf

Ali are awarded "Bharat Ratna" They deserve the award. The award had not been given lately. The term of President Shankar Dayal Sharma comes to an end today. On the whole he has done well.

August 9, 1997 *Chitradurga*

This day 55 years ago under Gandhiji's guidance and inspiration we the Indian National Congress passed the "Quit India" resolution in Bombay Gawalia Tank Maidan. It is good it is being celebrated. In fact celebrated today at Bombay. I had to take part in it but did not go on account of the passing away of son-in-law Dr. Chandra Sekharappa. I heard what happened on the radio.

August 14, 1997 *Chitradurga*

Representatives of Newspapers and others came almost every day during the last about 15 days and recorded my opinions about the Golden Jubilee of the Independence Day etc., etc. I also agreed to their request, I, in particular refer to the utter neglect by govt. of the Dir. Pr. of State Policy which has become a habit with me during the past few years. Today I was speaking about the freedom struggle and the Golden Jubilee of the Independence of India after the Chitradurga Bar Association had ho-noured me in their hall by giving me a sandal wood memento, garlands and fruits. I was a member of this bar sixty years ago, 12 years before I was debarred in 1940 for carrying on forest Satyagraha and convicted for it.

August 15, 1997 *Chitradurga*

Today is the most important and meaningful day in any year but this particular day being the Golden Jubilee year is more so. I think in every State and particularly in Delhi and all State Capitals it is being enthusiastically and tellingly observed. the Radio at 9 p.m gave a fairly good description.

the speech and the promises held out therein are quite a few objectives and subjects were good and convincing of Govts. bona-fides. I liked it.

August 16, 1997

Sri Krishna Kanth governor of Andhra Pradesh has been elect-ed as the 10th Vice president of India as against the Ex-chief Minister of Punjab Sri Barnala. He seems to be a man with a creditable history. I wish the Dy. chair person Smt. Nama Heftulla had been encouraged.

August 27, 1997 *Chitradurga*

Since both the Houses of Parliament are having special sessions on the initiative of the Speaker of Lok Sabha to discuss the present situation are meeting since yesterday and are likely to continue for 2-3 days more. After due consideration to the Prime Minister, leaders of parties in both houses and the speakers, Chariman and Dy. Chairman, sent a telegram to give due consideration to the Directive Principles of State Policy-Articles 37 to 51 of the Constitution and accept to implement at least even now to save the country. I also sent to copy of the telegram to important dailies like Times of India, Hindu, Indian Express, Deccan Herald for publication.

August 28, 1997 *Chitradurga*

The whole day practically even the time set apart for news is set aprart for the discussions in both the houses and is going to continue even for some hours during the night. It is good that it is done so. But most of the speeches are in Hindi and I cannot follow them. I will know, the substances of them in tomorrow's papers, part of them.

September 2, 1997 *Delhi*

The Doordarshan people came and recorded my statements

as well as the Zee people. "Aditi" the young woman was there who had come a few months ago. Arranged for biscuits and coffee for all. The meeting began with my introducing remarks about the present unhappy situation, corruption, poverty, population, unemployment etc.

September 6, 1997 *Delhi*

Bad and Sad news that Mother Terasa died yesterday night at 9.30. Great loss to the world of the poor and to humanity. Was an embodiment of kindness and service. The whole world is morning the passing away of a great lady, she was an angel of human kindness.

October 2, 1997 *Delhi*

Ashraf's car came as also Rajesh Pilot's car. Udaya, his wife and the two children in Bhavanas car and we went in Pilot's car and reached the Gandhi Samadhi area at about 11.15. Within 5-10 minutes the gathering swelled to about 6-7 thousand most of them clad in white. It was a sea of white. There was a huge Shamiana and people were quite a few outside. I had to get a chair brought for me. Very unforgettable speeches were made in the beginning by Mohan Dharia and 3-4 others in Hindi ofcourse. Then I spoke first a few sentences in Hindi and then in English for about half an hour, and lastly Gandhiji's Grandson, from Bombay spoke. The audience listened with rapt attention throughout and were quite appreciated. The meeting closed at 1.15, but still people were coming. I was quite happy and satisfied with the meeting. It was evident that people want this movement.

November 14, 1997 *Chitradurga*

Inaugurated the Co-operative Week beginning today in Chitradurga and being held in several taluk headquarters during the week. Spoke for only half an hour and pressed

that agricul-ture must be on co-operative basis and for that purpose the entire agriculture land should be so partitioned into economic plots depending on location re.dry lands and 5-6 acres re. irrigated lands and that only the cultivator should be owner etc. Came away after inaugurating.

November 20, 1007 *Chitradurga*

The Jain commission report on Rajiv Gandhi's assassination is going to create problems for the Gujral Govt. as each party is going to make use of it for its won purpose. No gentleman found among them. It was introduced in both Houses and there were uproars and adjournments. The report indicted, V.P. Singh, Chandrasekhar, Karunanidhi. we may await interesting developments. It is possible congress may withdraw support and B.J.P, may step in. We have to watch.

November 21, 1997

The Jain Commission Report on Rajiv Gandhi's assassination has given rise to a present political situation. Its finding against V.P. Singh Ex-PM and the D.M.K. have given rise to all sorts of situations. The congress has demanded dismissal of D.M.K. Ministers from the Central Govt. which has naturally been rejected. The result will be withdrawal of support of the Congress to the U.F.Govt. and may be possible in a confidence motion the Gujral Govt. will go. It may led to only general elections to Lok Sabha as it is not likely any pretty can form a government unless Congress supports BJP it may not be possible. Who knows?

November 27, 1997 *Chitradurga*

Ashraf phoned and told me that it could be better for me, C. Subramanian, Venkataraman (Ex-President) to go over to Delhi and advise concerned people to see that instead going in for general elections it would be better to settle things

etc. I phoned to both of them and Subramaniam said it may be difficult to do anything in the present uncertain atmosphere. Told him to consider again and I will phone tomorrow at 10 a.m. Venkataraman said he would be in Delhi on 1st December and would be available. I am not quite sure whether our advice would at all be heeded.

Anyhow let us see if any thing is possible at all.

November 28, 1997 *Chitradurga*

Stalemate continues. By evening because of congress on withdrawal of support, the PM I.K. Gujral has submitted his resignation and one must see within the next 2.3 days how this will develop. I personally feel that neither Congress, because of the immoral attitudes of the party nor the BJP because of its communal attitude are fit to succeed the present Govt. It may be possible to form a non party or all party Govt.

Phoned to Subramanian and both agree that we may wait for a day or two. Anxious days.

November 30, 1997 *Chitradurga*

In Delhi things are the same as those since these days. The BJP and congress are trying their atmost to get into power. Both are underseving. The President is seriously trying to see if an arrangement and understanding is possible. One wishes he succeeds, but I am afraid it may not be possible.

December 1, 1997 *Chitradurga*

Hectic adivities are on in Delhi. Congress and BJP seems to be optimistic of getting necessary help form other parties. For both are undeserving of being entrusted with the governance of this great country for obvious reasons. In a

day or two I am sure things will be settled. Possibly considering the attitudes of several parties, the only way out may be fresh elections. A situation to watch anxiously.

December 3, 1997 *Chitradurga*

The night Radio says, most parties have failed to come to any understanding. The PM Gujral has advised dissolution of the Lok Sabha. I think tomorrow the President will order fresh elec-tions. There does not seem to be any other alternative.

December 4, 1997 *Chitradurga*

The President K.R. Narayanan, after duly considering, consultations etc., etc., has after all taken the desired decision to dissolve the Lok Sabha and elections have to be finished before the 1st week of March. That was the only decision possible. The ruling jumble of parties want to continue even for the next elections. They may have a chance. But they will not get the majority required. Yesterday told a pressman as also to some others before that in view of no party having any moral basis the best thing voters, i.e. the citizen should do is to elect the best candidate, going only by his history, character or credibility. I remember Jai Prakash Narayan has said it before.

December 9, 1997

Shivaram Karanth died at 11 a.m in Udipi Hospital after 6 days coma. Ashraf came at about 10 and told me that only about 4 or 5 members of the Gandhi forum have arrived and we may meet in the house itself. I agreed. At 2 p.m the radio announced that the great Sivaram Karanth died at Udipi Hospital after being in coma for 5-6 days.

December 24, 1997 *Birthday in Chitradurga*

Since morning people came and offered flowers (garlands) and fruits. In the evening we had the public meeting convened by the City Municipality in the P.M.N. Hall. It was full and overflowing. Jaffer Sherief presided. Hanumanthappa (M.P.R.S.) Mallikar-junaiah Ex-Dy. Speaker Lok Sabha, Ekantaiah,Ex. Minister and Chairman silk Production, local M.L.A Reddy addressed the meeting and praised me and my life of services. Large number of garlands, shawls, fruits were presented. Spoke for 25 minutes about my services very old age, freedom fighters, Artists, Pensioners, Sharavati projects, Chitradurga-Bangalore Water supply etc., this is the first time I spoke about what I had done. Also referred to the unfortunate situation, corruptions, want of morals, misbe-haviour, self interest etc. and failure of Govt. re. Dir. Pr. of State Policy etc. In very strong language appealed to people to vote for the best candidate in any constituency instead of voting for party candidate as there was no party that respected even its own ideals and objectives. Sherief spoke about me and my relationship with him as volunteer, etc., etc. It was a good meeting. I did not refer to my laying foundations for major irrigation projects. I ought to have done it. At 5.30 before I left for the meeting the committee members of the Shree Samaj, a dozen ladies came and offered me a shawl, flowers, fruits, sweets and had several photos taken. It pleased me very much. The wishes continued thoughout the day and I was so tired when I finished at 8.30. Tired Tired.

December 28, 1997 *Chitradurga*

Committed the biggest mistake of my life when the Ex-Yuvaraj of Kashmir Dr. Karan Singh visited me in my house. Mistook him for Sri Ghorpade of Sandur and went on talking to him as if he were Ghorpade till the very end and when

only he left Rajanna told me he was Dr. Karan Singh. I will apologies and ask for his pardon. I am very very sorry.

December 29, 1997 *Chitradurga*

Today there was election to the Karnataka Upper House Vidhana Parishat for 25 seats from local bodies constituencies. Day after tomorrow results will be announced.

December 31, 1997 *Chitradurga*

The last day of the year. Just like any day. Tomorrow the 1st January of 1998 will also be like any other day. I will live to see the end of the year. Way is welcome to me. Both to be or not to be. What the coming year hold for my country does? What does it hold for humanity? The coming year holds for possibly nothing spectacular for humanity. Election to the Upper House, Vidhana Parishat are announced. The ruling party of J.H. Patel gets 12 seats out of 25 Congress(I)

January 5, 1998 *Another Quiet day*

The radio, the newspapers are full of hectic attempts by political parties, all of them these days to come to settlement with all other parties, inspite of the past history or political professions, to come to understanding in the ensuing Lok Sabha Elections. There is neither any policy nor principle. Their main aim is to get into power. There is no policy either political or social or economic or moral. Can these fellows serve India or its people?

The same story about parties and election adjustments continues. Much is made of Sonia Gandhi, the Italian woman and widow of Rajiv Gandhi and Indira Gandhi's daughter-in-law. She is expected to work for the Congress. Ashraf phoned from Delhi that he would like to stand as a candidate from Dharwad South Consti-tuency. He also said

that B.J.P. wants him. He wanted my opinion. I did not. Left it to him. Told him I would be in Delhi on 7th night.

January 15, 1998 *Chitradurga*

Today's evening radio broadcast announced the sad news that Guljarilal Nanda is dead. He was 99 years old and had served his country in different capacities. He was primarily a labour leader and a staunch congress man and freedom fighter. I believe he acted twice as Prime Minister and in some other capacities. He was for a long time Central Minister. One of the most honest men I have come across. He was ailing for quite sometimes and was an invalid and bed-ridden for a few years. News both in press and otherwise is about coming elections. I have been refusing requests to go outside Chitradurga.

January 23, 1998 *Chitradurga*

Today is a great day as India has celebrated the 101st birth day of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. It is only during the last few years that his name is given importance and Indian Govt. has decided to officially celebrate his birthday. During the Nehru-Gandhi rule this good name was practically hushed up. No attempt was made to find out facts about his last days. I have also written that Govt. should make attempts. So far nothing seems to have been done.

January 25. 1998 *Chitradurga*

Listened to the Pre-Republic Day speech by President K.R.Narayanan. It was entirely to my satisfaction as it mainly dealt with the same problems, poverty, illiteracy, rural India, corruption etc., etc.

Radio and T.V. are full of news re. Republic Day parades and speeches and shows at Delhi and other places. This year's special guest of Delhi was the French President. There seem to be some agreements between the two countries.

January 27, 1998 *Chitradurga*

Ofcourse the major news is of the filing of nomination papers for Lok Sabha polls. yesterday the militants killed 23 pandits in Kashmir, of Course, set up by Pakistan. The whole world has condemned this killing. The Chief Minister J.H. Patel of Karnataka has sought a vote of confidence for his ministry and won in a specially called Assembly meeting for a day. A clever move.

January 28, 1998

All the 23 accused in the Rajiv Gandhi's assassination case have been sentenced to death by the judge in Tamil Nadu, such large number to be hanged! Unthinkable! I wish the culprits in the murder in Kashmir the militants will be found and similarly dealt with. It is good that P.M. Gujral visited that village today.

February 16, 1998 *Chitradurga*

222 seats, first day of Lok Sabha polling. Radio announced that the elections to 225 constituencies of Lok Sabha and a few State Assemblies went off peacefully, except in Bihar where about 20 deaths have occurred. In Karnataka it seems to have been peaceful with more than 60% voting. Good. We have to wait till the end of the month for the results to be almost fully announced. It will be interesting. I think no party will get the required majority.

February 18, 1998 *Chitradurga*

Glad, very glad to know by tonight's radio announcements that Sree Subramaniam has been given the Bharata Ratna Title. He deserves it more than many others. Papers and Radio are full of election news and re-elections in 800 and odd booths of which 700 are in Bihar. Day is as usual. Yesterday was a disturbed one. Today I am as usual.

March 2, 1998 *Chitradurga*

Results are slowly coming in as published in the Radio from hour to hour. It looks as expected BJP has the largest number. As expected B.J.P. will be the biggest party followed by Congress. Already negotiations seems to have begun. Horse trading may begin tomorrow. Prime Minister Gujral seems to be sure of being returned. Karnataka Ex-chief Minister Banagarappa has been badly defeated.

March 10, 1998 *Chitradurga*

As expected the President Sri Narayanan has called for the BJP leader A.B. Vajpayee to form the Government. He has said that he will. The Congress Predident Sitaram Kesari has said he will resign before the C.W.C. when it meets on Saturday. In 2-3 States the Governers have called for the large parties to form Government. No party either in the centre, or State seems to have a comfortable majority. We must watch for developments. Look up at what is happening. I am getting a feeling that Prime Minis-ter as well as chief Ministers should be elected in the same manner as the President.

March 14, 199 *Chitradurga*

The political situation is confused. Jayalalitha has now said that she will support BJP from outside. On the other side congress President Kesari has said he will not resign from Congress Presidentship immediately. The whole situation is confusing. There is no decency, discipline, idealism objectivity anywhere with anybody. One does not know what is going to happen. In the meanwhile, we of the Bharatiya Chintana Samithi have written to the President for the meeting of Lok Sabha as per Article 86(2) of the Constitution. I have received reply to the letter. The whole situation is interesting.

March 15, 1998 *Chitradurga*

A significant day. Sonia Gandhi having been elected Congress President was practical enough to realise the situation and possibly to maintain the purity of the congress went to the President and submitted that congress is not staking a claim. It ended the President Narayanan to call for BJP leader Vajapayee and asked him to form a Government. It is most welcome that this nasty situation has been solved. It only remains for the BJP to behave properly and not to be guided by Communalism and not to be inspired and guided by R.S.S etc., and giving up its Hindutwa. One has to carefully watch. BJP has Jayalalita's backing.

March 19, 1998 *Chitradurga*

The BJP Vajpayee led ministry has been sworn in and assumed office today, 21 cabinet including both B.J.P. and other party Ministers and 21 similarly Dy. Ministers. Portfolios are to be announced tonight. Ramakrishna Hegde, George Fernandes, Sikhandar Bhakth are known to me and sent them congratulatory messages, four women only are taken as Ministers.

March 21, 1998 *Chitradurga*

Finally pressures are going on re-election of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. I do not like Sri Sangama the last speaker trying to be speaker. He no doubt is the best person. But he should approach any person or party. It is good if there is a convention that once a Speaker is chosen he should continue and no candidate should be set up against him.

March 28, 1998 *Chitradurga*

BJP wins in the confidence motion. Vajpayee Govt. atleast rules for some time. So I welcome Vajpayee. I expect it will

not be controlled by R.S.S. from outside etc. Vajpayee has assured, so to be carefully watched. I think the Bharateeya Vichar Samithi should issue a relevant statement.

April 14, 1998 *Delhi-Bangalore*

As agreed yesterday R. Venkataraman and Pilot drafted a statement and after Ashraf got my approval, had sufficient copies made. At 11 we had the Press Conference. Both Venkataraman and Pilot attended the Press conference. There were a large number of press men and women. Being unwell I made a few preliminary remarks about the Gandhi Forum and the necessity to make it grow from the Panchayat level. Venkataraman elaborated and convinc-ingly made his statement and then Pilot. Quite a few questions were asked and answered. I liked the members. We had also light refreshments.

May 14, 1998 *Delhi*

Ashraf came in the morning to inform that the Gandhi Forum would meet at 5 p.m. and 15-20 members would attend. It was a very successful meeting and members were asked to sit by my side and speak loudly. They were kind enough to do. Quite about a few about 10 of the 14 -15 members expressed their views after my preliminary remarks. They made constructive suggestions and a member had noted in detail the several suggestions and it was agreed that a comprehensive resolution would be published in Press conference on Monday.

May 20, 1998 *Delhi*

Yannekoppa is the village of Mallikarjunappa Gowda who was with us in jail, a great Gandhian, most respected in Shimoga dist. who in accordance with Gandhian (Vinoba) principles distributed his thousands of acres to his tenants freely.

May 28, 1998 *Chitradurga*

Today's papers announce Pakistan had yesterday two nuclear blasts. That is in retaliation to India's tests. That may give a sort of support to India's blasts. Today and yesterday there has been going on in Parliament a discussion on India's loud Nuclear blasts. The government being much confused by opposition party members and equally loudly supported by the Govt. members and other ministers. The Defence Minister is long and loud. It is still going on in the both houses.

May 29, 1998 *Chitradurga*

Pakistan has again today had the sixth Atomic Explosion one more. Then the Indian Govt. Where will this competition lead to? With Pakistan's attitude, we have to wait and watch and be ready to meet any situation. I do not think India will misuse this weapon. The discussion has been going on in both Houses of Parliament.

May 31, 1998 *Chitradurga*

Tomorrow the budget will be introduced in Parliament. All are watching with keen interest. It is radioed that Pakistan had exploded only one bomb and not six. Possibly they want to create an impression that they are as strong and equipped as India. Today they seemed to have misbehaved with our ambassador. What do they want? They had already tasted two wars and tasted utter defeat. We have to watch development.

June 1, 1998 *Chitradurga*

The Central; Budget has been announced. I think it can be gener-ally accepted. It is good have been encouraged to invest in their mother country. It is good. Increase in some postal rates seems rather unnecessary.

June 5, 1998 *Chitradurga*

Recent Nuclear blasts both in Indian and Pakistan are a matter which continues to interest and agitate the world. I believe after a time this agitation stops. Only all the nations who possess this knowledge should soon come together and making necessary amendments in the C.T.B.T. should join together and prevent any misuse of the disastrous power. It is necessary and essential in the interest of mankind.

June 11,1998 *Chitradurga*

Elsy is a devote Christian and discussed with me for about an hour about hell and heaven, prayer, church, temple, mosque and related matters. I told her about my own philosophy about universe, god, life after birth and after death, hell and heaven which I all denied. She is intelligent and understands. She promised to write frequently as before.

June 30, 1998 *Chitradurga*

This morning the new representative of the Dalai Lama came with a companion after phoning to give me personally an invitation to attend the Birthday Function of the Dalai Lama on the 6th July. He presented me as usual with a white scarf along with a pile carpet 2'6' fairly valuable. We discussed the Tibetan problem and I wished Tibetans will have freedom early if possible, by coming to a compromise move with China. Only freedom must be there. I promised to send a message which he liked.

July 7, 1998 *Chitradurga*

After due consideration and inspite of my increasing weakness and giddiness, I have decided to leave for Bangalore tomorrow afternoon to attend the meeting

regarding irrigation in Chitradurga and Tumkur districts. Rajanna also feels I may go. When I told him I may live not for many days, he told me I do not look like one but quite lot to live for more days. Of course I am as willing to pass off or willing to continue to live. After all I am returning where I came from Part of the Universe, Indivisible and complete. I put my cloths and all that for tomorrow's going.

July 9, 1998 *Chitradurga*

I am glad Mrs. Heptulla has been elected as Dy. Chairman of the Rajya Sabha for the 4th time successively. She is a fine woman and a good Dy. chairman. Everybody likes her.

August 1, 1998 *Chitradurga*

Very sad news that... who had succeeded Raghavendra Swamy of Malladihalli a great institution having many departments, Ayurvedic park having medicinal plants medicine, Yoga, education, Asanas, etc., etc. having unique buildings, just died at Bangalore of Cancer. A good successor to a great founder that Raghavendra Swamy was. Buildings worth cores of rupees and plantations etc. No doubt there is a board of trustees. I do not know what will happen to this great institution. At 4 p.m. Jaffer Sheriff, my old chela Ex-Central Railway Minister came to enquire of my health along with his 1st son and 2 other friends. He said nothing will come out of the prosecutions that are pending against him. He said he would welcome them. I am receiving a number of requests for participation in functions in many places. I am refusing all of them. I can not leave my house. I am not able to move out without great difficulty. Getting weaker.

August 18, 1998 *Chitradurga*

Got a phone call from Matthur Krishnamurthy, Bangalore that tomorrow evening himself and S. Ramakrishna

Secy.Gen. of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan from Bombay are coming to see me probably because of the news item that I am unwell. I welcomed. Both of them are my good friends. Both of them have built up the Bhavan's Branch at Bangalore by Krishnamurthy since he came from the London Branch about 5 years ago and Ramakrishnan has built the Central Office since foundation by the late K.M. Munshi half century ago. He is the mainstay for its strength through scores of branches in Indian or those in foreign countries.

August 19, 1998 *Chitradurga*

As expected Sri. Ramakrishna and Sri Mathur Krishna Murthy both of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan did not turn up this evening.

August 31, 1998 *Chitradurga*

Mathur Kirshna Murthy and S. Ramakrishnan of the Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan at its branch at Bangalore and Head office at Bombay are coming to Chitradurga day after tomorrow in the morning just to see me. I think it is purely a courtesy visit for both of them. They have lot of regard for me, probably because I helped long back Mathur to go to London to be in charge of the Branch there, which he has built up hugely and made it very popular and S. Ramakrishnan because I got the present site for the Bhavan when I was Chief Minister probably free.

September 2, 1998 *Chitradurga*

As expected S. Ramakrishnan and instead of Krishna Murthy, Padmanabhan came at 12.30 welcomed by me had sumptuous meal and from 1.30 to 3, had lot of talk on the Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan matters and on all subjects including life, culture, philosophy. I told him that the Bhavan's journal may think of finding commonness in all various philosophies of the world and how Hindu philosophy has been the basis and attributes of all

philosophies. Our talk was recorded. Ramakrishna as usual was very courteous. He pre-sented me 4 important books published by them. He wanted an article by me on "what life has taught me". It was a useful talk.

September 17, 1998 *Chitradurga*

Sent a message to the conference expressing my sympathy with Tibet. I have always been in full sympathy with Tibetans and the Dalai Lama has been a friend of mine. As chief Minister helped by granting two large areas of land in Mysore district and North Canara district to the Tibetans. Quite a large number of families having been doing very well and leading successful, happy, economi-cally well-to-do lives as successful farmers, built their own temples, comfortable houses, schools etc. I am happy that I helped them. but I want that Tibet should be independent and China get out of Tibet.

September 23, 1998 *Chitradurga*

Since 2-3 days the papers, the radio are all full of the news about Bihar's govt. dismissal. The Central Government of the BJP having recommended the dismissal of the Rabri Devi Govt. has created widespread discontent specially as the Rebri Govt., has secured a confidence vote in the State Assembly. I feel this use of the Article 356 of the constitution should be very very rare. There is naturally protests on all sides and the President is consulting legal constitutional experts and seems to be very carefully studying the problems. Possibly he may decide tomorrow. It will be a historic decision full of possibilities.

October 20, 1998 *Bangalore*

At 10 went to Tagore Memorial Hall and attended the function arranged by the Nidumamadi Jagadguru Peetha

Mutt to celebrate its predecessor Swamy, the well known Jachani noted for his great scholarship, his works in Kannada consisting of all branches, prose, poetry, criticism, Vachanas, etc., his 90th birthday. He died 2 years back succeeded by Veerabhadra Channamalla Swamy native of a village in Chitradurga Taluk and also to confer awards and cash of Rs. 15,000/- on me and Dr. H. Narasimhaiah. It was very well attended meeting, the hall was full 1500 nearly. It was a grand function addressed by Dr. D. Javare Gowda the author of my biography. I accepted the award and said I would add more amount and sent it to the Swamy to a good purpose and came away.

November 10, 1998 *Chitradurga*

Next month this day I will be celebrating my 97th Birthday. A long life. Have I been of any use to my country. I do not know. The future must tell. I can say this much. I have done my best. Today has been a fairly busy day. As per her phone yesterday the well known social worker in Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh whom I have been responsible to be taken as a member of Sardar Vallabha Trust Smt. Jaya Arunachalam came by car at 1.30, had her lunch with us and left at 3 for Bellary. We discussed many problems in which she is interested in including the trust sp. problems of poor women including fisherwomen. She is an able organizer with an ideal and faith and successful. We exchanged some gifts.

November 18, 1998 *Chitradurga*

This morning unexpectedly Prof. Dr. D. Javare Gowda (De. Ja. Gow) came with Prof. of mandya college, after visiting Davanagere and Murugha Mutt here. We discussed many subjects mainly Basava Philosphy of which he is a recognised authority though he is a Vokkaliga. He quotes

Basaveswara and Sharanas so easily and cor-rectly. He was with me for more than an hour. Discussion on philosophy with him were refreshing and informative.

November 22, 1998 *Bangalore*

This evening 43rd Kannada Rajyotsava Day was celebrated by the Bangalore Kannada Balaga in Ashoka Hotel at 6.30 p.m. when 4 persons including myself, Siddalingaiah President of Karnataka Sahitya Parishad and two others were awarded citation, shawls and mementos were presented. Speeches were made and I who was also President speaking after Ex-chief Justice made his speech, spoke at some length in an emotional mood against people who wanted to have separate North Karnataka , Hyderabad-Karnataka, Coorg, I hit hard. I spoke similarly against caste and communalism against neglect or poverty generally against neglect of Directive Principles of State Policy, etc., was listened with rapt attention. Though not necessary it was one of my emotional speeches.

November 26, 1998 *Bangalore*

There was a most horrible railway accident by two trains collid-ing. By evening it was found that the bodies extricated were more than 110, and injured more that that 120. It occurred in Punjab. Election results to 4 Assemblies in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi and Mizoram held yesterday have been announced and except in Madhya Pradesh BJP has won in the other States, where it was in a majority and ruling it is badly beaten. There-seem to be a demand that BJP may resign in the Central Govt. The BJP is not in a mood to do so as they can technically continue.

December 5, 1998 *Chitradurga*

The Bababudan Hills Dattatreya function went off without any incident or clash between Hindus and Muslims. It is

unfortunate that the Bhajaranga followers tries to interfere in collaboration with Hindutva fellows tries to create trouble. They deserve to be punished for interfering with an institution that is a perfect example, of Hindu - Muslim unity and understanding for hundreds of years. Tomorrow is Babri Musjid destruction day-6 years ago. BJP for their own sake should prevent any incidents.

January 2, 1999 *Bangalore*

A practically quiet morning. Aruna and his wife Prabha came at lunch bringing some sweet items for lunch which I liked. After food in the morning Chandrasekhar my great admirer who is also secretary for the Truest in my name discussed about the printing and publication of my biography written in English by Prof. Raghavendra Rao of the Karnataka University and showed some photos to be included in the biography and also discussed to be sent to Delhi for my autobiography, about many other things concerning about my life and activities as chief Minister and otherwise he is an intelligent and well informed person who is a great admirer of mine.

January 3, 1999 *Bangalore*

After rest the Prime Minister sent word he would come to me at 5.40 but actually came at 6.30 with Sri Yadiyurappa, BJP Karna-taka President, offered him flowers, snacks and tea and after preliminaries in which I offered congratulations. I told him of 3 subjects I was interested. 1. To do everything possible to have the Kannada speaking Kasaragod Taluk of Kerala to be transferred to Karnataka as awarded by the Mahajan commission and admitted by ten leaders and Chief Minister of Kerala. 2. Have the title to the Sardar Vallabhabai Patel Smarak Trust Building 7, Jantar Mantar Road, New Delhi transferred from A.I.C.C. to the Trust which is pending for 20 years and now before the Union Home Ministry. 3.

Have a building preferably in Aurangazeb Road which was occupied by Sardar Patel or any other building gifted to Sardar Patel society that has big ambitions have a permanent memorial in his name in Delhi. Heard me patiently and assured that he would be sympathetic. I was satisfied. Gave him copies of my correspondence with Kasargod people. Decided to leave Bangalore tomorrow at 2 P.M.

January 5, 1999, *Chitradurga*

In the afternoon at about 5 my son-in-law S.B. Muddappa retired Chief Secretary of Karnataka Government who has taken up the responsibility of restoring historical buildings at Basava Kalyan, Bidhar dist. Fallowed by their association with Basaveswara and his institutions at his time in the 12th Century, who is perhaps the greatest social reformer of all time and who was the first to give successfully equality to women who for the first time removed barriers between caste hindus and untouchables and was perhaps murdered for marrying a Brahmin girl with a Harijan boy, he fought the castes and for Kayakave Kailasa etc., has been going round with others. Sought my advice. As usual came for reconciliation.

February 13, 1999 *Chitradurga*

Karnataka is proud of the Cricket bowler, Anil Kumble, who has bowled out all the 10 Pakistan's cricketers in one innings and has honoured him in Bangalore naturally in many ways giving him presents of all sorts including a car worth Rs. 6 lakhs. It is good. He has brought credit to India and specially to Karnataka.

March 19, 1999 *Chitradurga*

Smt. Mohisina Kidwai leader of the Indian congress and its working committee member came at about 4.30 p.m. and with her all the -members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha of

Tumkur and Chitradurga districts and some important members including Hanumanthappa of Chitradurga, Nagamma Keshavamurthy of Davanagere and others. they all came from Bangalore in car. Then all introduced themselves exhibiting lot of respect for me, some touching my feet exchanged with all of them and specially with Smt. Mohisina. I gave her or presented with a shawl which she received with considerable thanks etc. I exchanged coustesy with her. Told Nagamma that I may find it difficult on account of my age to come to Davanagere tomorrow. She said that my health is more important and left it to me to come or not. After about half an hour they took leave of me. I was glad she had come to my house and she seemed happy to have come to my house and seen me. It was on the whole a good meeting.

April 15, 1999 *Chitradurga*

The confidence motion moved by Prime Minister Vajpayee has been under discussion since yesterday in the Lok Sabha. It looks as though it will be passed as most of the parties are unwilling to force the election. We must see anyhow what the result will be tomorrow when the votes are taken. I have feeling the Vajpayee government will survive. But the difference may not be much.

April 20, 1999 *Chitradurga*

Ever since the Vajpayee govt. lost by one vote in the Lok Sabha and he resigned and asked to carry on for the time being. Delhi is busy with political adventurism. The congress led by Smt. Sonia Gandhi a woman whom few people know assisted possibly by Kumari Jayalalita mostly assisted by another equally adven-turous woman Shashikala Nataraja has been playing bad equally. It is anybody's guess what will happen in a couple days. Possibly Vajpayee government may come back. Congress led by Sonia Gandhi or who

knows what may happen. This is disgusting, damned shame that things should happen like this.

April 26, 1999

After lot of political activity during the last 4-5 days, the Lok-Sabha has been dissolved. It is good it is so. I have predicted it 3 days ago. Only the nation has to face the problem of having a new govt. within possibly 3 months. One cannot be sure which party will get a majority in the house if at all. It is interesting to watch. One cannot predict which party wins. I am of the view that no party deserves to rule. The best of persons may be chosen and a government of good people may be formed. Though not a practical wish we may try the experiment. Let us watch.

April 27, 1999 *Chitradurga*

Now that fresh polls to the Lok Sabha are due, Political Parties seem to be trying to come to understanding with parties. One cannot say how adjustments will be made with fellows like Kumari Jayalalita, Subramaniyan Swamy.

April 30, 1999 *Chitradurga*

Got good news by phone form Bidri that the scheme for supply of water to Chitradurga town from Vani Vilas Sagar has been sanc-tioned and that Kiran Sherdal's appointments may continue. Rs. 3 lakhs sanctioned to Sardar's society has been sent.

May 20, 1999 *Chitradurga*

State Minister in charge of Minor irrigation Sri Thippeswamy informed me that both the irrigation project for Chitradurga district and the Drinking Water Project for our town are being sanctioned. Foundation for irrigation project 'Tunga Thiruvu' is being laid on 27th by the Chief Minister and I

may attend and arrangements will be made, if agree. I said I cannot. irrigation would be made available to Chitradurga, Hiriyur, Challakere, Hosadurga about 2 1/2 lakhs acres. Also for few of the towns sanction would be given for supply form Shantisagar and not Vanivilas though it may cost more. I am glad, I thanked the government and said that work may begin and be finished early. I thanked him and told him to express my personal gratitude on both the projects. I am aso happy. Other things as usual.

May 21, 1999 *Chitradurga*

At about 11.30 Vatal Nagaraj came with about 50-60 people with band and other temple things of his native place temple, a big show and honoured me with a costly shawl and equally costly the usual sandal garland. He had also arranged for T.V. recording. It was a very big show which I had not expected. I do not know why he had arranged this. He had brought this people etc. in two buses all the way from his place Chamarajanagar which has re-cently become a district headquarter. He asked me about Kannada being made compulsory language which though accepted is not duly implemented. The whole show lasted for about an hour. The T.V. people also recorded all that happened. He also presented me with a wooden inlay frame about 4' by 2' which must have cost him a good deal. As I said above do not know why he did this. It must have cost him quite a few thousand Rupees.

May 27, 1999 *Chitradurga*

Today the Chief Minister has laid the foundation for the irrigation Project "**Thungathiruvu**" which is expected to serve the Chitradurga District to the extent of nearly two lakh acres though the papers and the invitation say the survey is being inaugurated which is rather funny in view

of the fact that the same invitation give details of the estimates of cost, the area and other details. I will press as I have been pressing for quite some time that it must be undertaken.

June 2, 1999 *Chitradurga*

Chandrasekhar phoned that my biography by Prof. Raghavendra Rao will be released and R. Venkartaraman, former President of India, has agreed to release it. also C. Subramanyam may agree to participate as also Hegde and Patel and others may participate. He was particular that I must participate. I said I had told all that I will not be able to come and he and other friends must go on without me.

June 3, 1999 *Chitradurga*

This morning the Akashavani of Chitradurga Branch and a representative interviewed me for more than an hour regarding, as an old citizen about my views about the present political situation mainly in the country and about my feelings and views about the political, economic and more specially about the moral or immor-al situation etc. Also about my own personal involvement and personal experiences, sufferings, family etc. In the afternoon the Doordarshan people came with similar equipments for my opin-ion, experiences of Chandrashekar Patil who was my close friend and associate of Gulbarga and for whom I had so much regard and affection. They seem to be making a film about him.

June 8, 1999 *Chitradurga*

After receiving today from A.R Badrinarayan and his earnest request that I should attend on 20th the function in which my biography in English by Prof. Raghavendra Rao is to be released by R. Venkataraman, Ex-president, presided over

by C. Subramanyam. I have decided to attend funciton and also the Bharateeya Vidya Bhavan function on 19th. Wrote to A. R. Badrinarayan accordingly. I think I may have to remain for three days. This inspite of my previous decision not to leave home at all.

June 15, 1999 *Chitradurga*

Doordarshan people wanted an appeal from me to the people of India to help the Kargil war. I appealed and wanted only official collection agencies to avoid abuse of collection and the press at all stages to reserve necessary space to publish them. I also contributed Rs. 10,000/- through a press man.

June 18, 1999 *Chitradurga*

As informed before Sri Ramakrishnan, the Secretary General of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan who has throughout these decades since its founder Murushi's time and the Bangalore Kendra Secretary who has made it a most popular institution in Bangalore came at 8.30 a.m with a photographer and read the Thambra Patra, eulogsing my services to the Country, the Bhavan, Society etc., to me. Krishna Muthy read it and General Secretary offer it to me. We had general talk in which the Secretary General mostly praised me for many things I had forgotten. We had breakfast together and they immediately left as they have to attend tomorrow's function in which are conferring along with me the permanent membership, on the Kannada well known author who is 100. A.N. Muthy Rao the well known controversial author and they are offering in my absence to Kiran Shankar, my son. As usual they gave a shawl and a flower garland.

June 19, 1999 *Chitradurga*

Today I am conferred the Hon. Membership of the Bharatiya

Vidya Bhavan along with the well known Kannada Literature Sri A.N. Murthy Rao who is famous for his Book in Kannada *'Devaru'*, God. Which has caused a stir among specially Brahmins. I could not attend the function and my son Kiran Shankar has received it for me. They gave it to me in my house day before yesterday formally.

June 20, 1999

My biography by Prof. Raghavendra Rao was released by Ex-President under the Presidentship of Bharata Rathna C. Subramaniam with Governor of Karnataka.

Both Kiran Shankar and L.S. Chandrashekar told me tonight at 8 p.m that today's function was a grand success and huge compliments were given to me this morning by all the 3 dignitaries. Kiran told me that he received the Thambra Patra in yesterday's function at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan function in my absence. I am no doubt happy but my feeling is that people are extolling me more I deserve. No doubt it flatters my vanity and I am happy in a way satisfied.

June 21, 1999 *Chitradurga*

I have today received a letter from a representative of the Union Government that they have formed a committee to commemorate Sardar Patel's name. Now after 50 years and written to Manubai Patel and sent a copy to me. I have to write to them regarding the entire matter relating to Sardar Patel Society and the Trust. Funny they have thought of him now.

July 13, 1999 *Chitradurga*

Shyamanur Shivashankarappa sent a couple of people that I must tell Smt. Sonia Gandhi to remember him. Similarly Smt. Basavarajeswari phoned that she must be told not to

forget Lingayats. People are already thinking she is Prime Minister. Funny! Many people have come just to see my house. We are as a nation Sp. Hindus worship power as the king is the manifestation of God. She is still to find a constituency, get elected, Congress to get a least working majority and she to get leadership.

July 14, 1999 *Chitradurga*

Since morning Police were in evidence in and around my house. Sonia Gandhi who in these days so much in the news as the Prime Minister immediately after the Lok Sabha elections in September was on her way to Bellary from Bangalore stopping at Chitradurga just to see me came to my house an about 1.30 p.m. along S.M. Krishna, President, K.P.C.C. and a few others in a helicopter and was in my front room for about 15 minutes. She presented me with a Shawl. I was sitting covering my stretched legs with a shawl and I could not get up. In return presented her woolen shawl and a sandal wood art piece gift more important with a copy of our Constitution and requested her to stick to the Directive Principles of State Policy and follow and try to implement them. We talked about children, Indira's love for them and my traveling with her and President Krishna was all the while with us. She is fairly good looking woman with an angular face. One cannot say she is beautiful. She knows how to please people and I would see she knows to please, the way also she fondled children etc. I wished her well and we took leave of one another wishing and I thanked enquiring of this old man and for believed she as expected to stand for election to the Lok Sabha from Bellary.

July 15, 1999 *Chitradurga*

Sonia's visit to my house was in great evidence in the press in all the papers. One paper – Indian Express published

that I could give only six cups of tea as I have only six in my house and gave the names of the six persons who had the joy of the cup of tea. I am not so poor as that though I cannot say I am well off, I am only, if I say so middle, middle class as I get 12,000 Rupees by way of 3 pensions one of former member of Parliament, another as former member of State Legislature and yet another as political sufferer having gone to jail as freedom fighter 5, 4, & 3 thousand rupees respectively that is almost all my income except a little monthly rent of my out-house. That is enough for me as I live with Rajanna and a cook. I can say I am not in want. I am leading on account of these pensions a fairly comfortable life inspite of the large medical bill. Puri my last daughter Poornima has a fairly good income and lives comfortably. Often my daughters come at my request and live for a few days with me.

July 17, 1999 *Chitradurga*

This morning at about 11.30 the Minister for Culture etc Smt. Leelavati R. Prasad came to see me for the sole purpose to make me consent to receive the award "Karnataka Ratna" and this it is the desire of important persons including the great scientist Dr. Raja Ramanna and that a committee has recommended that I must be given the award and she has been sent mainly to make me consent to receive it. I am tired really of these awards. She insisted also on her own behalf that I should accept. I had to accept and she was happy and after discussing the present unhappy political situation in the State and her unhappiness. She left. Having visited my house for the first time, I presented her with Kashmiri Shawl.

August 15, 1999

Here in Chitradurga it was observed in honour of Veera Vanite Onake Obavva the soldier's wife who protected the

fort gate by breaking the heads of Hyder's men soldiers with her pounding big rod in her husband's absence. A parade ground is named after her.

Parekka is still here, I am happy. She told me, Chandra her son had been to Bangladesh and his visit was successful.

September 5, 1999 *Chitradurga*

Today is the first of the three days of polling. Went to the forest office for voting both for Lok Sabha (Parliament) and Assembly in Karnataka. The first day, for Bellary Constituency two outsiders both women Sonia Gandhi and Sushma Swaraj are contesting for the Lok Sabha. The contest has been very very keen and it is difficult to say when the result will be, the local candidate is nowhere in the picture. It is expected that, the attitude of the people against a foreigner becoming the Prime Minister may not be liked and it may happen Sonia Gandhi may fail. But it is different. What the result would be. The first day's polling is fairly successful being nearly slightly more than 60%. Bellary is supposed to be about 65%. The first of the 3 days is nearly 65%. It is good. The keen contest is between the BJP and the Congress. It would be interesting to know the result.

September 17, 1999 *Chitradurga*

The Deputy Commissioner's Assistant came when I was walking in the evening with the help of the walker that the State Government had decided to award me the title "Karnataka Ratna" on the 2nd October, the Birthday of Gandhiji and to ascertain my opinion. Told him if Government had already taken this decision I have to accept it. Only it must be in Chitradurga.

September 27, 1999 *Chitradurga*

This morning as informed yesterday the Swamiji of

Chitradurga Murugha Rajendra Jagadguru came and congratulated me for my being awarded the highest title of the Karnataka State Viz. 'Karnataka Rathna' by the State Government. He brought as presents a huge bottle of honey, some well known Ayurvedic medicines etc. I in turn presented him as offerings Rs. 100/-, coconuts etc. We discussed Basaveswara's philosophy, Kayaka and Dasoha, etc., so essential to social development and social services development. It should be broadcast and made known the world.

October 2, 1999

An eventful and meaningful day in my life. The Karnataka Govt. on the recommendation of the great scientist Raja Ramanna Committee has honoured me with 'Karnataka Ratna'.

October 7, 1999 *Chitradurga*

In most States as the results show that the Parliament is going to BJP party and Vajpayee is going to be Prime Minister and in Karnataka Congress is going to have the Govt. Probably S.M. Krishna.

October 31, 1999 *Chitradurga*

This morning unexpectedly Sri Ghorpade of Sandur one of the world's best animal photographers and now again a Minister in the new Cabinet of S.M. Krishna came and was with me making enquiries after my health and exchanging views and convictions on many subjects of personal interest and public. He has been entrusted with Rural subjects Ministry. He made kind enquiries of my health and I made similar enquiries about his family, his wife, children and grandchildren. While taking leave he as unexpertedly touched my feet as most people do who visit me. I do not like it but cannot avoid it.

November 1, 1999 *Chitradurga*

Rajyotsava Day. The car from the D.C's office came at 10.50 a.m and took me to the Murugarajendra Hall when the hall was full (about a 1000 people) to celebrate the 44th Rajyotsava Day. People enthusiastically welcomed me. As usual Manju helped me to go to the place reserved for me on the platform. The Forest Minister K.H. Ranganath was there to address the gathering. M.L.A. Thippa Reddy presided. After the D.C. welcomed the gathering, the Minister Ranganath addressed the gathering and also welcomed me. I was honoured by the usual garlanding (Garland as big as myself) and a memento about 4 feet by 3 feet possibly costing 10,000 rupees containing my photo in the center and depicting historical places of Chitradurga and round about and it must have cost them about 10,000 rupees for a big flower garland, fruit in a plate and a shawl. I replied for about half an hour about the history of Kannadigas, then high attainments in Literature, arts, Govt. etc., and the unique significance for the bringing all Kannada areas under one rule for the first time in history after Indian Independence on the first November 1956. Thanked Dr. Raja Ramanna.

December 18, 1999 *Chitradurga*

Inaugurated the "Vande Matharam" Programme meant for the youth of the country to involve themselves to build up a strong, united, casteless India. This is a joint programme involving the Central Government and State Government. It has to run from today till the 12th next year, everywhere in the country. The meeting was held as usual in the Murugha Mutt auditorium and was fully attended by mostly students of the High Schools and Colleges. It began at 11a.m.

I spoke inaugurating the programme for about half an hour and appealed to the youth of the country to work unitedly for the unity and strength of India after referring to its history from the Vedic times, its past historical achievements present and recently to the philosophy preached by Budha, Basava and Bapu (Gandhiji). Came away immediately after my speech. Feel weak and exhausted even found a little difficult in finding words feeling really old and want to pass away.

January 12, 2000 *Chitradurga*

Yesterday Sri Nani Phalkivala the well known lawyer and now very much interested in Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and is a prominent member in its Bombay Central Office has sent a personal very friendly letter by courier post enclosing a bust by Prof. Lakshmikantha of Florida U.S.A. It is published by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. It deals with Indian post etc. I will have to read. It seems interesting and enlightening.

January 28, 2000 *Bangalore*

Sri V.S. Krishna Iyer a popular figure had his 78th Birthday celebrated in the Tagore Hall at 11a.m. Before going to the function visited Sri A.R. Badrinatrayan's house met him and his wife. The couple were as usual most happy to welcome me. We made mutual enquiries about our families. He has grown hard of hearing but is otherwise alert and takes interest in public matters and has his own ideas about public matters.

Krishna Iyer's function was very well attended as he has been a most popular figure. I was the principal speaker and presented him with a shawl, memento etc. Very important personalities took part including the former Chief Justice

Nittoor Srinivasa Rao. He is always present in all public functions in Bangalore. It was a most impressive function. Sri Iyer and his wife are known to me since many years i.e., since the days of Satyagraha.

❑

Important Events

10-12-1902	Born in Halavagalu Village.
1919	Saw Gandhiji for the first time.
1924	B.A. Degree.
1926	Started legal practice in Chitradurga.
25-05-1927	Marriage with Murigamma of Davangere (Murigemma born on 30-9-1910).
1928	Birth of the first daughter Parvathamma.
1936	Vice-President of Chitradurga District Congress.
18-09-1939	Turuvanuru Eachaluvana Satyagraha; first imprisonment.
1940	Cancellation of order of Advocateship.
09-08-1942	Participated in Quit India Movement and arrested.
1944	President of Mysore Pradesh Congress.
1946 - 1954	President of Mysore Pradesh Congress.
1946	Member of Constituent Assembly.
1952-1956	Elected to Lok Sabha from Chitradurga.
01-11-1956	First Chief Minister after unification.
1957	Won the elections. Continued as Chief Minister.
15-11-1959	Founder-Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation.
1962	Defeated in Elections from Hosadurga constituency. Won from Bagalkot constituency. Continued as Chief Minister.
12-03-1967	Weighed in gold in Bijapur District (During China Aggression).

1967	Unopposedly elected from Shiggaon Constituency. Again became Chief Minister.
07-12-1967	President, All India Congress, (Very first President from Karnataka).
23-07-1968	Tour of Japan.
12-05-1969	Tour of Europe.
July 1969	Historical Congress Session at Bangalore, beginning of the split.
Dec. 1969	Congress Split.
1974	Resigned as President of the Congress (O).
1977	Formation of Janata Party. National Executive Member.
06-03-1985	Resignation to Janata Party. Retirement from Politics.
10-10-1988	Death of Murigamma.
1990	Chairman of the Sardar Patel Trust.
1990	Chairman of the Sardar Patel Society.
02-10-1999	Awarded 'Karnataka Rathna' title.
20-06-2000	Fell ill due to leg injury - Treatment at Bowring Hospital.
25-06-2000	Returned to his native Chitradurga.
08-08-2000	Final Journey. ❑

It goes to the credit of Sri. S. Nijalinagappa, the great National Leader, that despite multifarious activities of his eventful life, he pursues two important daily programmes regularly with a sense of devotion and zeal. The two programmes are 1. voracious reading, and 2. diary writing. The diaries are the records of historical, social, cultural, political and domestic events of his experiences about men and matters and the world around him. I have no doubt that most of these records possess information which is of valuable, national and historical significance. They are the veritable sources of material for the historians as well as literary men. It is, therefore, very necessary that these records should be published for the benefit of the research scholars and creative writers. Sri Nijalinagppa Foundation deserves salutation for publishing the selected diaries. Indians should be grateful to S. Nijalingappa Foundation for publishing the book *S. N. Diary*.

D. Javare Gowda